



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES

DECEMBER, 1998

## Prayer and Addiction

There is great heartache and frustration for those who have a family member or friend who is an addict. It is not so much what the person is addicted to as it is that the person has lost control and has become enslaved by it. The addict is now being controlled by something or someone else. He or she continues on the path of self-destruction, blind to the dangers and the destruction of the addiction. And, you feel as if nothing can be done.

I am sure that you can think of someone in your life that is an addict. If you cannot, you would probably be surprised to know who is. It could be a family member or a friend. It could be someone that you work with or someone with whom you attend church. You know that this person is in bondage to alcohol, drugs, pornography, another person, or the variety of things to which a person can be addicted. You wonder, "*What can I possibly do to help the person? What can I do to make a difference in this person's life?*" **The most important thing that you can do for this person is to pray for this person.** You must cry out to Jesus Christ in his or her behalf.

You must realize that there are no helpless or hopeless cases when Jesus Christ is concerned. The power of Jesus Christ can set the addict free. Through Him, there is hope and power for deliverance and freedom for the addict. This is not just a religious cliché; these are not fancy words that are empty of meaning or power. This is living truth! Jesus Christ is real and His power to change lives is a living reality. You can see this power flow into the person's life through prayer.

In order to help you learn how to pray for an addict, this article will feature the basic facts about addiction. The focus of the article will be on the basics of what addiction is and how a person becomes an addict. Following this, suggested, specific prayer requests will be offered as a guide to help you pray for this person. Through this article, it is my hope and prayer that you will gain greater insight into this issue. By doing this, I hope to challenge you to intercede for those who are addicted. Your prayers can make a difference in the lives of the addicted.

## The Heart of Addiction

At the heart of addiction is idolatry. The addict is an idolater who has made an idol not with his hands, but with his heart (**Ezekiel 14:3**). Addiction is a lordship problem. The addict has surrendered himself to something or someone else other than God. The reason for this surrender is to meet some need or to fulfill some desire. The person turns to this something or someone rather than God to meet the need or the desire.

It is important to understand that addiction is the symptom of a self-centered heart and not a victimizing physical weakness. The secular mindset calls addiction a 'disease;' the Bible calls it idolatry. Why is addiction idolatry? The addict has gone outside of God to something or someone else for what he or she feels is needed or what is desired. This person has turned away from God, the only true source of hope, comfort, and blessing to something or someone else for what is needed or desired. Idolatry is turning away from God to worship and serve something or someone else. This is exactly what the addict does. The addict surrenders himself to the something or someone and becomes its servant. This is what the Bible calls idolatry.

The purpose of this idolatry is to manipulate the idol for one's own benefit. In Old Testament times, people erected idols and surrendered themselves to false gods. The reason that they did this was to get their will done. An example of this is **1 Kings 18**. In **1 Kings 18**, Elijah confronts the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. The prophets of Baal slashed themselves and did everything that they could to manipulate Baal to do their will. An idolater does not worship and surrender himself to something or someone because he is convinced that this is the true God. He does it in order to get something he wants. The addict does not surrender himself to alcohol, drugs, pornography, or whatever the addiction because he feels that this is the true God. He does this because of the feeling it gives him: good feelings, a better self-image, a sense of power, or whatever the heart is craving. In surrendering himself to this thing, it becomes his god, his idol. It gives him what he wants and it becomes the center of his life. It takes the place of God in his life.

This is at the heart of what addiction is all about in a person's life. There are some people who are desperate for love and acceptance. They seek for this. Due to the reality of sin, they seek to find love and acceptance in substance, a possession, or a person rather than in a personal relationship to Jesus Christ. There is an emptiness in the person's life, a hole that nothing seems to fill. Instead of turning to Christ, the person turns to this something or someone. It gives temporary comfort. But, the person is hooked. They crave the thing or the person because it helps them deal with the lack of love or acceptance that they feel.

There are some people who want to escape the pressures of life. The pressures of life can feel overwhelming and at times, almost unbearable. The person does not turn to Jesus Christ and His Word to find the help that he needs in facing these pressures. Instead, he turns to a substance, an activity, or a person to deal with or to forget about the circumstances. In order to escape, the person turns to the addiction rather than to Jesus Christ. Again, the something or someone gives temporary comfort. The person gets hooked. They begin to crave the thing or the person because it helps deal with the pressures of life.

There are some people who have never learned how to cope with pain. They turn to something or somebody other than Jesus Christ and His Word in order to deal with the pain in their lives. If you've ever had a toothache, you know that the only thought in your mind is to get rid of the pain. This is exactly what the addict is doing. The addict turns to the person or the thing in order to deal with the pain, whether it is physical or emotional pain. As stated above, the person finds temporary relief. The person is hooked. They begin craving the something or somebody because it helps them deal with the pain.

No matter what the reason the person has for turning to his addiction, it is idolatry because the person is turning away from God to find help in something or someone else. The great tragedy of this addiction/idolatry is that the person becomes enslaved to the feelings or benefits that the something or someone gives. Therefore, the person has to continue to cling to the addiction. On the one hand, idolatry is a rebellious, selfish choice. It is turning away from God to find what is needed in something

or someone else. Yet, it slowly becomes a state of enslavement, a loss of control. This is due to the nature of sin. Sin captures and controls (**John 8:34; Galatians 6:1**).

These truths point out how to deal with addiction. First, there must be repentance. Addiction begins with a rebellious, selfish choice. A person is not an addict because he is a victim. A selfish, rebellious choice was made to turn from God to this something or this someone. The addict must repent of his idolatry and turn back to God. He or she must realize that all that is needed can be found in a personal relationship with God, walking with Christ and obeying His Word.

Yet, there must also be the power of Jesus Christ. Addiction is a sinful, rebellious choice. But, when that choice is made and the person continues in the addiction, the person becomes enslaved. The person is captured and controlled by the addiction. This person must have the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ that comes through the Holy Spirit. "Just Say No!" is a tremendous slogan for the prevention of addiction to drugs and alcohol in children and teenagers. Yet, it has no power for the person who is in bondage to addiction. It is simply not enough to say no. The person who is in bondage to addiction must have the power of Christ to break the chains of the addiction. The only answer to the enslavement of sin is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It is only by a daily reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit that a person can get free from the chains of addiction.

## The Making of An Addict

Nobody plans to become addicted. Nobody likes being addicted. And everyone is sure that it will never happen to them. So how does it happen? How does a person get into this bondage? It is the result of a process over a period of time. A person does not become an addict overnight.

Each person travels a private path to addiction. Yet, there are basic steps that are similar in each situation. The first step is indulging in a sinful habit. This is when the person turns from God to meet his needs or desires in something or someone outside of God and His will. The person finds some temporary relief or pleasure in the sinful habit.

Following this, there is dependence. The addict begins depending on the sinful habit. He or she needs the alcohol. He or she craves the pornography. He or she needs the other person. At the point, the indulging turns into a desperate needing, a craving dependence. The addict now needs the benefits or the help that the substance or something gives.

The next step in the process is tolerance. As the person continually turns to the addiction, the "high" involved gets less and less. For example, it takes more and more drugs to give the "high" that the drug addict needs. The drug addict has to turn to more and more drugs to get the original feeling that he once had. As the "high" diminishes over a period of time, the greater the amount of drugs that the addict has to use. This is true for any kind of addict regardless of the substance or thing that is being used.

The final step in the process is withdrawal. The person is consumed by the addiction and it is in complete control of his life. The addict withdraws from life, family, and friends. At this stage, the addict cannot function in society. He or she loses the ability to live a responsible life at work and home. Severe financial difficulties set in as this person struggles to support his or her addiction. The person becomes paranoid about contact with other individuals, fearing that his addiction will be discovered. This is the stage where severe mental and physical problems can set in or even death.

# Suggested Prayer Requests

The following is a list of prayer requests that you can pray through for a person who is addicted. These prayer requests are offered solely as a guide to help you in praying for the addict. You can use these or develop your own from these. Also, you will know the specific details of the person's situation. You can develop your prayer requests from these. Pray that God will give you specific insight into the particulars of the addict's life and problems. Ask God to help you in praying specifically and intensely for this person.

**(1) If this person is not a Christian, pray that God would draw this person into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:3, 3, 15-17; John 6:44).** This person needs the Lord Jesus Christ and His power. Plead that God would reveal the Lord Jesus Christ to this person and that he or she will truly turn away from his or her sins and trust in Jesus Christ as the personal Lord and Savior of his or her life. There is very little that can be done for this person until he or she knows Jesus Christ in a personal relationship.

**(2) If this person is a Christian, pray that God would grant this person repentance from this addiction (2 Timothy 2:25-26).** The addiction that this person is in bondage to is a sin-the sin of idolatry. In order to be free from it, the person must confess that it is sin before God, turn away from it, and commit through Christ's power and help not continue in this sin. Call on God to grant repentance to this person. Plead with Him to enable this person to turn away from the addiction to Jesus Christ;

**(3) Plead that this person will realize that Jesus Christ is sufficient for him or her (Colossians 1:15-23).** This person needs to realize that Jesus Christ is sufficient to satisfy, protect, guide, and supply every need. These are not just religious maxims that are to be repeated. They are living truths. Jesus Christ is the complete and sufficient Savior, Lord, and King. This person must come to see that the only way to true peace and fulfillment is by walking with Jesus Christ in a daily, personal relationship;

**(4) Plead that this person will come to see clearly the dangers of his or her addiction and the destruction that can happen if he or she does not repent (Proverbs 14:12).** The addict cannot clearly see the danger of his or her addiction. This person is blind to the ultimate consequences of what the addiction can do. Plead with God to show this person the danger and the destruction that this addiction can bring. Call on God to take away the blindness of this person concerning this matter. Plead with God to destroy all the excuses and self-justification that this person has;

**(5) Ask God to break any demonic strongholds that have been set up in this person's life; call on Him to remove any influence that Satan or his demons may have in this person's life (1 Corinthians 10:19-20).** In this passage, the apostle Paul states

that the sacrifices of pagans were actually to demons. He is referring to the fact that this meat was offered to the idols of the pagans. Where there is idolatry, there is demonic power. This refers to both idols made with the hands and those made with the heart. When a person is addicted, whatever that person is addicted to becomes the center of his or her life. This person is committing idolatry. When this takes place, demons will be involved to exploit this matter and to lead the person deeper into bondage. You need to pray that these demonic forces would be hindered and that their work in this person's life would be destroyed;

**(6) Plead with God to take away any pleasure, satisfaction, or comfort that this person receives from his or her addictive behavior (Hosea 2:6-7; Ezekiel 37:23).** The power that the addiction has over this person is from the benefit that is derived from it. Call on God to remove any benefit that this person might get from the addiction. Ask God to make this a bitter thing in the eyes of this person. Plead that God will take away any pleasure that this person has from the addiction; ask for a change of heart in this person concerning whatever the person is addicted to;

**(7) Plead with God to break the power of this addiction in the person's life through the life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:32; John 16:7-8).** The power of the Holy Spirit brought about the creation of all things. The Holy Spirit raised Jesus Christ from the dead. These are magnificent displays of the power of the Holy Spirit. It is through this power that He can transform lives. Plead with God to grant this power to flow into this person's life. This person needs the miraculous power of God to break the chains of this addiction. Plead that the Holy Spirit would cause His power to flow into this person's life, causing the chains of this addiction to be utterly destroyed in this person's life.

**(8) Pray that God will enable this person to learn to cope with pain (2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Psalm 86:17; Isaiah 12:1, 49:10, 51:3, 12, 52:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).** Many times a person turns to drugs and alcohol to deal with pain, whether physical and emotional. This person has not learned to cope with and face pain. Because of this, the person turns to drugs, alcohol, or other addictive things. This provides a quick fix, but does not offer a long-term cure. Pray that this person will turn to Jesus Christ rather than whatever he is turning to in order to cope with the pain. Call on God to give this person the grace that he needs to face and deal with the problems that is giving him so much pain and is causing him to turn to something to find relief;

**(9) Plead that God will enable this person to face and deal with the pressures of life (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).** Many times a person turns to addictive substances in order to deal with the pressures of life. Rather than turning to Christ and His Word, this person turns to a substance in order to cope with the pressure. Plead with God to grant this person the grace to turn to Christ and face the pressures with Him;

**(10) Pray that God will strengthen and enable the family and friends of the addict to stand by this person and minister to him or her (Proverbs 17:17; Ecclesiastes 4:10).** Those who are the closest to the person who is addicted needs family and friends to stand by him or her and to provide ministry in this situation. The emotional stress of the family of this person is

staggering. The family and friends go through a great deal of "silent" pain. Plead that God will give this family hope, grace, and peace. Call on Him to reveal His love and mercy to them. Yet, you also need to pray that God will give them wisdom to minister to this person. The family and friends need to know what to say and what to do. They cannot allow themselves to enable this person to continue in his or her addiction. They cannot allow themselves to excuse this person's behavior. They cannot allow themselves to fail to understand that this is a spiritual problem that only Jesus Christ can conquer. Plead that God would guide the family and the friends in how to deal with this situation in a Christlike way;

**(11) Pray that this person would be cut off from anyone who would enable or encourage them to continue in his or her addiction (Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 1:10-18).**

This is especially true if the addiction involves a substance like alcohol or drugs. Many times the addict is surrounded by those who encourage continuing in alcohol or drugs by words or actions. This is what happens to teenagers and young adults. Pray that God would bring an end to any relationship that this person may have with someone who is enabling them to continue in their addiction. At the same time, you need to pray that God will send into this person's life people who will love and care about him or her. Pray that God will send people into his or her life that will have a burden to help this person break the addiction to which he or she is bound.

**(12) Plead that this person will come to understand that there is hope and deliverance in Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Mark 10:51-52).** The person who is addicted needs to know that there truly is hope and deliverance in Jesus Christ. Many times the addict will feel as if there is no hope; he or she will feel as if the situation is hopeless. Yet, this person needs to know that Christ has the power, the mercy, and the love to deliver them and rescue them from the dangers and the destruction of addiction. *Where there is sin, Jesus Christ offers forgiveness and the power to cast it off!* Pray that this person will know this and will seek Christ for forgiveness and deliverance.

## Your Child and Addiction

Satan wants your children and he will attempt to capture them and destroy them any way that he can. Some of his most effective lures are drugs, alcohol, and other addictive behaviors (like eating disorders). It is never too soon to start praying for your children to avoid alcohol, drugs, and other addictive behaviors because the exposure to and the possibility of addiction to these things can happen at a very early age. It's also never too late to pray about it either, because temptation can take place at any point in your child's life. The following is a sample prayer to help you in praying about this matter. You can use this prayer or develop your own. Regardless of what you do, please make this a matter of concern when praying for your children, no matter what their ages.

Heavenly Father, I pray that You would keep (your child's name) free from any addiction, especially to drugs and alcohol. Make \_\_\_\_\_ strong in You, draw \_\_\_\_\_ close to You and enable \_\_\_\_\_ to put You in control of (his/her) life. Speak to (his/her) heart, show

(him/her) the path that (he/she) should walk. Help (him/her) see that protecting (his/her) body from things that destroy it is a part of (his/her) service to You.

I pray that You, Lord, would destroy any plan that Satan has to destroy (his/her) life through alcohol and drugs. I plead that You will remove anything from (his/her) personality that would be drawn to those substances. Your Word says that there is a way that seems right to a man, but actually leads to death (**Proverbs 16:25**). Give \_\_\_\_\_ the discernment and the strength to be able to say "no" to the things that bring death and "yes" to the things of God that bring life. May \_\_\_\_\_ clearly see the truth whenever tempted and be delivered from Satan whenever trapped by him. Enable \_\_\_\_\_ to choose life in whatever (he/she) does and may (he/she) be so interested in and excited about the things of God that (he/she) will have no interest in alcohol or drugs.

In the name of Jesus, I pray that everything that \_\_\_\_\_ does with (his/her) body will be done to Your glory. Amen.

## Learning To Praise God-God the Holy Spirit

In previous issues of *The Prayer Closet*, we have been dealing with the subject of learning how to praise God. We have looked at the attributes of God, the names of God, and each individual Person in the Trinity. In this article, we want to focus on God the Holy Spirit. He is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. He is fully God; He is equal to Father and the Son and is just as worthy of praise and adoration as the Father and the Son are.

It is unfortunate that the Holy Spirit is neglected by so many Christians and churches. It is time that we come to the realization that we are utterly dependent on the Holy Spirit. We need Him to live the Christian life and to glorify God. It would be impossible to become let alone live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit. He needs to have a significant part in our praise of God. Our lack of praise and attention grieves Him. It grieves the Father who sent Him. It gives the Son who gave the Holy Spirit to the church and the believer. This is the reason that we lack the powerful moving of the Holy Spirit in our midst. If we are not open to Him and are not willing to give Him the praise that He is worthy of, we will do without His life-transforming power.

Many have interpreted **John 14:26** to mean that the Holy Spirit can and must be ignored. This verse reveals that the Holy Spirit will testify to the person and the work of Jesus Christ. It must be understood that this verse is not giving us the license to neglect the Holy Spirit nor to place Him in an inferior position to that of the Father and Son. To reveal the Son is one of His many tasks. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scripture. The Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher that reveals the truth of Scripture to the believer. It is the role of the Holy Spirit to open our understanding to all of the Scripture, including the teachings about His person and work. The Holy Spirit is to receive attention and praise from every believer just as the Father and the Son are.

In order to help you learn how to praise the Holy Spirit, the following is a list of the titles of the Holy Spirit. These titles reveal truth about the person and the work of the Holy Spirit. Study the Scripture concerning these titles. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you about Himself. Record what He

teaches You. Ask yourself: How can I praise the Holy Spirit for this? Then, praise Him by what you learn about Him.

Breath of the Almighty-Job 32:8; 33:4	Counselor-John 14:16
Deposit-Ephesians 1:13-14	Eternal Spirit-Hebrews 9:14
God-Acts 5:3-4	God's Seed-1 John 3:9
Good Spirit-Nehemiah 9:20	Helper-John 14:16, 26; 15:26; Romans 8:26
His Holy Spirit-1 Thessalonians 4:8	His Spirit-Psalm 106:33; Ephesians 3:16; 1 John 4:13
Holy Spirit-Matthew 1:18; Mark 12:36; John 1:33; Acts 4:8; Romans 15:16	Holy Spirit of God-Ephesians 4:30
Living Water-John 7:38-39	Lord-2 Corinthians 3:17-18
Power of the Most High-Luke 1:35	Promise of the Father-Acts 1:4; 2:33
Seal-Ephesians 4:30	Seven Spirits-Revelation 1:4-5; 4:5; 5:6
Spirit-Numbers 11:17, 25, 26	Spirit He Gave Us-1 John 3:24
Spirit of Christ-Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11	Spirit of Counsel-Isaiah 11:2
Spirit of Faith-1 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Cor. 4:13	Spirit of Fire-Isaiah 4:4
Spirit of Glory-1 Peter 4:14	Spirit of God-Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Matt. 3:16
Spirit of Grace and Supplication-Zechariah 12:10	Spirit of His Son-Galatians 4:6
Spirit Who Raised Jesus From the Dead-Rom. 8:11	Spirit of Holiness-Romans 1:4
Spirit of Jesus-Acts 16:7	Spirit of Jesus Christ-Philippians 1:19
Spirit of Judgment-Isaiah 4:4	Spirit of Knowledge-Isaiah 11:2
Spirit of Life-Romans 8:2	Spirit of Our God-1 Corinthians 6:11
Spirit of Power-Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of Promise-Ephesians 1:13
Spirit of Sonship-Romans 8:15	Spirit of the Fear of the Lord-Isaiah 11:2
Spirit of the Living God-2 Corinthians 3:3	Spirit of the Lord-Isaiah 11:2; Luke 4:18; Acts 8:39; 2 Corinthians 3:17
Spirit of the Lord God-Isaiah 61:1	Spirit of Truth-John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13
Spirit of Understanding-Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of Wisdom-Isaiah 11:2
Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation-Ephesians 1:17	Spirit of Your Father-Matthew 10:20
Spirit Who Intercedes For Us-Romans 8:26-27	Spirit Who Is From God-1 Cor. 2:12
Spirit Who Searches All Things-1 Cor. 2:10	Your Holy Spirit-Psalm 51:11

## Praying Through The Ten Commandments

In previous issues of *The Prayer Closet*, we have focused on praying through the Ten Commandments. The purpose of doing this is to understand the commandment and then to seek God for



the grace and power to obey it through prayer. The commandment we are focusing on in this issue is the fourth commandment (**Exodus 20:8-11**). This commandment deals with the Sabbath. Due to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Sabbath has given way to the Lord's Day (**Hebrews 12:22-24; 1 Corinthians 16:2**). Sunday, or the Lord's Day, is the day that we are to separate and make special.

Whenever the Lord's Day is mentioned, the debate over what a Christian should not do begins. There has always been and there always will be a debate over what a Christian should not do on Sunday. Yet, this misses the point of what the Lord's Day is all about. The Lord's Day is not about what you do not do on Sunday. It is about *what you actually do* on Sunday.

The Lord's Day is to be a day which is set apart for the worship and the service of God. It is very true that we should worship and serve God every day. However, Sunday is to be unique. It is the day where this is supreme. All the other days of the week one has to worship and serve God in the activities and pressures of the week. Yet, Sunday is the day when all this can be placed to the side and our worship and service can take a special place in our lives.

There are times when this is not possible. The great confessions and creeds of the Christian faith refer to these times as "works of necessity and mercy." There are some Sundays where out of necessity or out of service to others one cannot use the Lord's Day as a special day of worship and service. Yet, this is usually the exception rather than the norm for most believers.

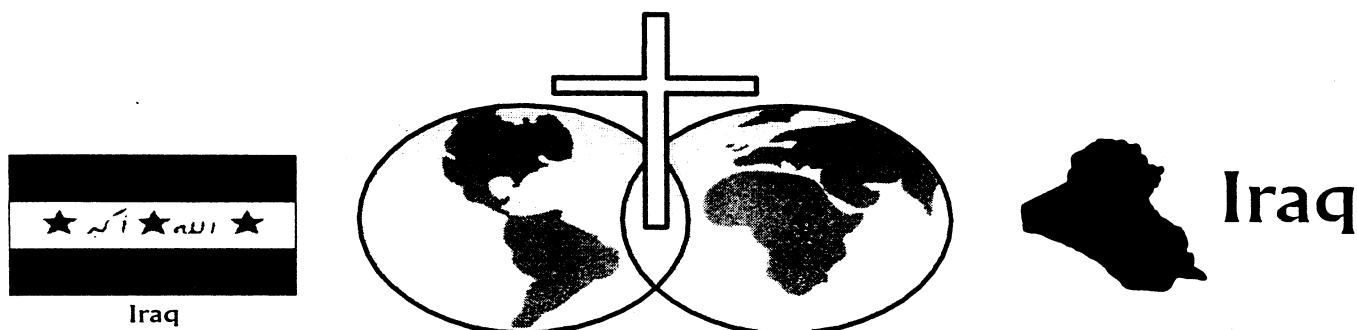
## Questions For Examination:

1. Have I had an unconcerned attitude toward Sunday as the Lord's Day?
2. Have I used Sunday as a day for my own pleasure or profit?
3. Have I truly attempted to make Sunday a special day, set apart for the worship and service of the Lord?
4. Have I used the Lord's Day for my own selfish purposes?

## Prayer

Heavenly Father and Holy God, I praise You that You are the God of heaven and earth. I praise You because You are the great and glorious God of the universe. You are worthy of all my praise. You are also worthy of all my obedience and surrender. Father, never let me be indifferent or unconcerned when it concerns You holy will, Your holy commands. I plead that You will enable me to use the Lord's Day as a special day, dedicated to Your worship and Your service. This is the day in which You raised Your Son Jesus Christ. This eternally secured my salvation and my standing before You. What a holy and special day You have made Sunday to be. Grant me the grace and power to make this a special and holy day in my personal day. Cause me to worship and serve You every day of the week. Yet, help me to honor You and Your Word by recognizing Sunday as Your day. Thank you for saving me from my sin, my self, and eternal pain and agony in hell through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

# Advancing The Kingdom



Iraq is a familiar nation for most Americans. It seems that every time you cut the television on that America and Iraq are headed for a collision course toward war. Saddam Hussein is a familiar name to Americans ever since the Persian Gulf War. What Americans are not familiar with is the thousands of Christians that are being persecuted. Americans are not familiar with the terrible suffering that the Iraqis people are enduring.

Iraq has experienced a troubled history since Bible times. This is the place where the Jews were taken into exile and where the prophet Daniel served the kings of Babylon. Since Saddam Hussein came to power in 1979, there has been only turmoil for the people of Iraq. Most of the 1980's were spent at war with Iran over the control of the Shatt-al-Arab waterway to the Persian Gulf.

Following the Persian Gulf War, select ethnic groups were exterminated. Tens of thousands, including Christians, were gassed, shot, or forced to leave their homes. The power of the government and the military remain in the clutches of Saddam Hussein. He is a ruthless dictator that has no concern for the people of Iraq. He rules the nation with an iron fist. Religions are accepted in Iraq by their level of loyalty to Saddam's regime. The flow of Christian literature into the nation has been restricted by the government.

The good news is that decades of war and hardship has brought about significant change in attitudes and lowering of prejudices among Muslims. There is more respect for Christians and a desire to hear the gospel and to read the Scriptures. The **Jesus** film has been widely and openly shown and in 1991 the full film was shown on national television.

You need to pray for your persecuted brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ in Iraq. Please use the suggested prayer requests in the July issue of *The Prayer Closet* to intercede for them. They desperately need your prayers. There are other specific requests you can pray over concerning the nation of Iraq. These requests concern the advancement of God's kingdom and the spread of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. These requests are:

- (1) Pray that Saddam Hussein will surrender His life to Jesus Christ or that he be removed from office. Plead that he will be humbled just as Nebuchadnezzar was in biblical times (**Daniel 4:29-37**);
- (2) Pray that the spiritual powers that control this land would be bound and destroyed so that this nation

will turn to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;

(3) Pray that revival would spread to the entire church in Iraq. Plead that God would grant revival to all the true believers in Iraq;

(4) Pray that Christian literature would flow into the country and that God will use this literature to bring many to Jesus Christ;

(5) Pray that God would use the harsh conditions and poverty due to economic sanctions to create a hunger for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## What Catalog Are You Focusing On This Holiday Season?

As we approach Christmas, the focus of the season is on giving and receiving gifts. There are numerous catalogs that are published this time of the year that reveal the numerous gifts that you can get and give for someone else. People search through these catalogs deciding what they can give to others and wishing for what they hope others will give them.

You may have all kinds of Christmas catalogs. Yet, do you have a catalog of God's blessings? The Puritan Richard Sibbes wrote, "*Let us keep a catalogue of God's blessings.*" Are you keeping a record of God's blessings in your life? You may say that this is impossible since God has blessed you with so much. Yet, it is a tremendous blessing and spiritual discipline to record how God blesses you in a day. As you discipline yourself to do this, your praise will be strengthened, your faith will be renewed, and you will have a greater appreciation of God's blessings in your life. And, this will be pleasing to God. As John Boys wrote, "*As the Lord loves a cheerful giver, so likewise a cheerful thanksgiver.*"

***This issue has dealt with the problem of addiction. There is help and there is hope through Jesus Christ. If you are in bondage and need help in this area, please contact Dr. Meador. Also, if you have a friend or family member who is an addict and would like to have intense and specific intercession made for him or her, please contact Dr. Meador. Any inquiries and information that is shared will be held in strict confidentiality. You can contact Dr. Meador through the address or phone number on the front page of this newsletter. You can also contact him at his personal e-mail address: [kmeador@intop.net](mailto:kmeador@intop.net).***

The Beloved Unbeliever Network is a network of intercessors who pray for believers who have spouses that are not Christians. This network of intercessors pray daily for believers who are in this situation. These intercessors have been trained and are committed to praying for believers who find themselves in this type of marriage. If you would like to be added to this prayer list or if you know of someone who is in the situation and would like to place them on this prayer list, please contact Dr. Kevin Meador. Please provide the following information:

Name of the family members  
Church affiliation  
Any special requests

Any information that is submitted will be kept in strict confidence and the privacy of the individuals will be protected.



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