



THE PRAYER CLOSET

ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING BELIEVERS IN PRAYER

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VOLUME

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ISSUE 2

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

God has saved and called the church for the purpose of worship (**1 Peter 2:9-10**). Worship is at the heart of the church's existence and mission. Everything that the church is and is to do flows out of our personal and corporate worship. Because of this, we need to make this a matter of prayer. This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on how to pray about the personal and corporate worship of the church.

Seeking God For A Lifestyle Of Worship

Every believer needs to pursue a lifestyle of worship. The corporate worship of the church is rooted in the daily worship of believers. You can't immerse yourself in the world for six days of the week and then expect to worship God passionately on one day. Believers need daily worship – a lifestyle of worship – to have an intimate relationship with God and to prepare them for corporate worship on Sunday. The following prayer guide can help you pray about this for yourself and for your church.

I plead that the believers _____ Church will praise You with uprightness of heart when they learn about You from Your Word (**Psalms 119:7**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church will worship You, the living and the true God in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**).

○ Lord my God, I ask that the believers of _____ Church will praise You with all their heart and that they will glorify Your name forevermore (**Psalms 86:12**).

Father, I pray that the believers of _____ Church will bless You. I plead that they will bless You with all that is in them. Do not let them forget Your benefits that You grant to them on a daily basis (**Psalms 103:1-2**).

Father, I plead that the believers of _____ Church will develop a lifestyle of praise. It is good to sing praises to You, our mighty God. It is pleasant and it is beautiful. Create in them a desire to praise You daily (**Psalms 147:1-2**).

I plead that the believers of _____ Church will speak of the might of Your awesome acts and that they will declare Your greatness. I ask that the believers of _____ Church will utter the memory of Your great goodness and that they will sing of Your righteousness (**Psalms 145:6-7**).

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I pray that the believers of _____ Church will bless You every day and that they will praise Your name forever and ever (**Psalms 145:1-2**).

I plead that the believers of _____ Church will worship You in the beauty of holiness. I pray that they will tremble before You (**Psalms 96:9**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would not forsake the assembling of believers but would be diligent to attend and participate in the worship of believers (**Hebrews 10:25**).

Praying For Your Worship Leader

Your worship leader is an essential and valuable part of your leadership. You may have a minister of music. You may have a praise team that leads worship in your church. However your church worships, it is crucial to pray for those who lead in worship. The following are some Scripture prayers to pray over those who lead in worship:

Father, I ask in the name of Jesus that _____ would have an intimate, growing relationship with You. Cause _____ to hunger for You and Your Word (Psalm 42:1-2).

Father, I ask that _____ would love Your Word. I plead that _____ will hear and obey Your Word. Grant _____ an intimate knowledge of Your Word (Psalm 119:97).

Father, I pray in Jesus' name that _____ would live and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that _____ would have a servant's heart (Matthew 20:28).

Father, I ask that _____ would have a healthy, productive relationship with the pastor and other leadership in the church. Enable them to work well together (Psalm 133:1).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You would protect _____ from all the schemes of the enemy. I pray that every weapon of the evil one formed against _____ will fail. Deliver _____ from all the traps and attacks of the enemy (2 Corinthians 2:11).

Father, I ask that _____ would have a healthy, productive relationship with the pastor and other leadership in the church. Enable them to work well together (Psalm 133:1).

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that You would grant _____ a hearing ear. Empower _____ to listen to You and to follow Your leadership (Psalm 46:10).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You would grant _____ wisdom and insight in planning the worship services. Reveal to _____ how You would have him/her to lead this church in worship (Proverbs 2:6).

Father, I pray that You would enable _____ to lead this body of believers into the worship that glorifies You and pleases You (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that You would strengthen and bless _____'s voice. Grant his/her voice power and healing that he/she might sing Your praises (Exodus 15:26).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You might grant a loving and harmonious relationship between the choir(s) and _____. I ask that they would respect and cherish _____. I pray that _____'s ministry in this church would be a delight and a joy (Hebrews 13:17).

Praying For The Worship Services

The following is a prayer guide to help you pray during the week the church's times of worship.

Father, I pray that our worship time will glorify You. Enable the believers of _____ Church to focus on You during the worship service. Cause the attention of believers to be drawn to You during this time. Remove any distractions that might hinder us from focusing on You (**Psalm 115:1**).

Father, I plead that You will remove any hindrances from the lives of believers that could prevent us from worshipping You. Enable us to remove anything from our lives that would prevent us from worshipping you in spirit and truth (**1 John 1:9**).

Father, I pray that peoples' hearts would be prepared to hear from You both in the music and the preaching of the Word. Create within the people anticipation and expectation that they will hear from You--that You will deal with them (**Matthew 13:3-9**).

Father, I pray that the _____ will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit both as _____ prepares and speaks, resulting in the Holy Spirit speaking to people during the message. Prepare _____'s heart to preach through the week. Enable _____ to be sensitive to the Spirit in his preparation and preaching (**Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:15**).

Father, I pray that the musicians will be used of You to minister and bless the congregation. I also ask that they will show forth the joy of the Lord (**Psalm 149:1**).

I plead that You will give wisdom and guidance for those choosing the music, that each song will deepen the worship experience of the believers and will prepare the believers and the lost for the message (**Psalm 150:3-5**).

Father, I plead that You would transform lives through the worship service. O God, I pray that

- ✓ sinners would be saved: **John 3:16; 4:12**
- ✓ believers would be edified: **Hebrews 10:25**

- ✓ backsliders would repent: **Hosea 14:4**
- ✓ physical bodies would be healed: **Exodus 15:26**
- ✓ broken hearts would be mended: **Psalms 147:3**.

Father, I ask for these things in the name of Jesus and for the glory of Jesus.

Father, I ask that believers of _____ Church will truly worship God in spirit and in truth. I pray that the people will hear and understand the truth of God's Word. I ask You to enable them to respond to You with deep and genuine repentance and commitment (**John 4:24**).

Father, I pray that all who attend _____ Church will feel the love of God in God's people and sense a spirit of peace and unity and that they are important to this body of Christ (**John 13:34-35; Philippians 2:1-5**).

Father, I ask that visitors will feel welcomed, be ministered to, and will desire to be saved and become a member of the church or if they are saved, to join this church and serve Jesus Christ through the ministry of this church (**Acts 2:42**).

Father, I pray that the power of God would be revealed and felt by each person in every worship service (**Psalms 22:3**).

Send Your power into the midst of Your people as we worship. I plead that the Holy Spirit will manifest His presence and power among the worshipers. Plead that this power will be released in your worship services (**Psalms 22:3**).

Father, I ask in the name of Jesus that You would be glorified in our worship services. I plead that Your name and Your fame would be preeminent in our times of worship (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

Worship And Warfare

Satan hates the worship of God. He despises it when people adore and glorify God. He longs for people to worship him. He desires that people bow before him. Because of this, he will do whatever he can to disrupt the worship of God's people. The Word of God says about him, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same

suffering" (**1 Peter 5:8-9**). He is a roaring lion who seeks to hinder and stop the worship of God.

The following prayer guide can help you to pray against this work of the evil one.

- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that You would bind the evil one and will hinder him from disrupting or destroying our worship.
- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that You would enable every believer to enter into worship with a prepared heart. Deliver us from allowing any open doors for Satan because of unconfessed sin or wrong attitudes.
- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that those who are in bondage will be set free.
- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that everything done in the worship service will be done to glorify and exalt the name of Jesus.
- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that no one would quench or grieve the Holy Spirit.
- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that every person would reject the lies of Satan and would receive the truth of God.
- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that Satan would not be allowed to sow discord or confusion into our midst.
- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that You would break the power of the evil one over every person in his grip.
- Father, I pray in Jesus' name that You would strengthen and encourage every worshiper against the temptations and snares of the evil one.

My Personal Preparation For Worship

The following is a guide to help you prepare personally for the worship services. If you are not preparing through the week, it will hinder your experience of true worship.

Monday: Ask God to cultivate a receptive heart in you for the pastor's sermon. Pray that He will work the circumstances of your life so that the pastor's sermon speaks directly to you.

The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.
Dr. Kevin Meador
P.O. Box 278
Hickory, MS 39332

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Tuesday: Plead that the Holy Spirit would work through the week to help you confront anything that would hinder your worship.

Wednesday: Pray that God will give you a heart to encourage and minister to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thursday: Call on the Lord to create a hunger in you for true worship.

Friday: Plead that the Holy Spirit will move in a unique and powerful way in your life during the worship service.

Saturday: Pray for a submissive spirit during the worship service.

Sunday: Plead for the filling of the Holy Spirit. Ask that the joy of the Lord would fill you and overflow to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

In This issue of *The Prayer Closet* has provided you with a variety of ways to pray concerning your worship and your church's worship. I encourage you to take time daily to worship Him and to pray over these matters. You might consider taking each of these guides

in small bites in order to encourage and guide your praying. Worship is essential to our walk with God. Moreover, God is exceedingly worthy of our worship and our efforts to improve our worship.

Our Apologies

In March, our computer at The Prayer Closet crashed. As we sought to recover our database, we encountered a host of problems. We have finally recovered our mailing list and are back to publishing the newsletter. We apologize for the interruption of getting the newsletters to you. We also ask you to bear with us as we work out the details with this new system. Many of the changes that we made over time to the mailing list were lost. Please contact us with any changes that we need to make. We would also ask you to pray for us. Our desire is to glorify God and minister to people. This has been a long and difficult season and we trust God to help us continue to do these things. Thank you and God bless you!

prayer@prayerclosetministries.org
www.prayerclosetministries.org

(601) 635-2180 (601) 646-5960