

Together We Pray- August 7, 2022

1 Peter 1:3–5 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In our prayer time together this morning, we are going to do **three** things:

1. **Worship (10 minutes)**

One way we honor people we love is by talking about them. We can do the same with God. We glorify God by saying great things about Him.

- What is a text of Scripture that has given you strength or comfort in God recently?
- What is something about God that is motivating you to praise Him?
- 1 Peter 1:3-5 should get our praise pump primed!

After you have answered, take a few minutes to pray and praise God for who He is.

2. **Remember and Give Thanks (15 minutes)**

Start out by answering the following questions as a group:

- What has God been doing in your life this past month that we can thank Him for?
- What has God been doing in the life of our church this last month?
- What has God been doing in the life of someone you are praying for?

Don't be shy! You are not talking about yourself as much as you are talking about God. After you have answered, take a few minutes to pray and thank God for how He is working.

3. **Bring your Requests (30 minutes)**

We are called to do the impossible.

How can we do the impossible? We can't! But God can. So we need to ask Him for help. We are going to divide our time of asking God for help into **two sections**.

First of all, we are going to ask God for some things that He guarantees He will answer. We know these are His will.

As a group read, 1 Peter 2:9–12: ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your

conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Take a couple minutes to identify items you can pray for our church about from this passage and then launch into prayer for God's people: for yourself; for the small group you're praying in now; for Cornerstone Bible Church. **(10 Minutes)**

Second, we are going to take some time to make requests regarding more specific issues in our life and in the life of the church.

To help you do that, allow a few minutes for individuals to answer one of the following questions:

- Is there something in your life you want God's help in?
- Is there something in your life that you are sad about and you want us to take to God?
- Is there something in the church you think we should depend on God for?

After you have answered those questions, go to God in prayer as a group. As you do, here are some examples of various other items you can be praying for, in addition to the ones you just shared. **(20 Minutes)**

- An area you want to grow and change in.
- An area where you are doubting or struggling with God and need His help in.
- Opportunities to share the gospel or for boldness regarding someone you want to share the gospel with.
- More general, yet important areas like - honouring God at work, being a faithful single person or a godly spouse, purity, communicating with others in a godly way.
- That men would respond to God's plan for leadership in the church.
- The various ministries and servants in the church such as: Life Groups, Children's Ministry and Children's Teachers, Roots, College Outreach, Equipping Hour, the preaching of God's Word, the Music Teams, Local Outreach, Elders, our Missionaries!
- More specific opportunities the next two months: Lee and Denny's trips to the US; Missions Conference; Start of Aspire; After-School Tutoring; Newcomer Follow-Up; Mackler's Trip to North Africa; Return of Women's Ministry; Young Adult outreach (basketball, campuses);
- Dreams for the church, such as: Being as humble as we possibly can be, God-centeredness, Elder Development, Vibrant Diaconal Ministry, Discipleship Culture, Evangelistic Fervour, Raising up Future Pastors and Missionaries, Being a blessing to the church neighborhood, Mercy Ministry etc...