

ASK: Ask~Seek~Knock

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"ASK and it will be given to you; SEEK and you will find; KNOCK and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

Welcome to ASK: Ask~Seek~Knock! “The Church that Prays”

ASK is a small group designed to assist any believer - whether new or experienced in prayer - to grow in developing a vibrant, enjoyable, fulfilling, and powerful prayer life. In the small group setting, believers will come together to learn about prayer and intercede for each other, the church, and the lost. One of the goals of ASK is to see every person in our church praying and worshipping God. Throughout the Bible we are encouraged to pray:

I know that even now God will give you whatever you ASK. (John 11:22)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ASK God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)

ASK Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. (Psalm 2:8)

ASK Me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. (Jeremiah 33:3)

We do not cease to pray for you, and to ASK that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. (Colossians 1:9)

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)

Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Luke 18:1)

My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isaiah 56:7)

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

During the small group semester, many opportunities to gather with others to pray will be presented: prayer walking the city for the lost, intimate worship meetings, corporate prayer meetings for the church, and organized prayer for communities, schools, and the government. Get ready for an exciting semester of connecting with other believers and deepening your relationship with the Lord. Enjoy!

The South Coast Prayer Team

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

Week One - What Is Prayer?

~Talking to God~

You will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

Prayer is simply talking to God. We can talk to God just like we talk to each other, but the difference is we can't physically see God. Prayer requires faith in God:

Hebrews 11:1,6 - Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Prayer involves believing that God exists and seeking Him. When you seek Him, you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13) The Bible tells us that there are "all kinds of prayers". (Ephesians 6:18) Sometimes we have conversation with God as a friend, other times we worship Him as our Lord and King, and then there are times we turn to Him as our Father who takes care of us. Prayer includes declarations of God's word, singing to Him, laughing with Him, crying to Him, and listening to Him. When we come together to pray, often our prayers are requests where we "intercede" on behalf of someone else. This is intercessory prayer. Sometimes we simply call it "intercession". ALL CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO PRAY AND INTERCEDE.

Luke 18:1 - Jesus told His disciples that they should always pray and not give up.

James 4:2 - You do not have because you do not ASK.

But intercession isn't just prayer - it's anything we do to represent another. As intercessors we are Jesus' voice, His Hands, His feet. We do what we know He would do if He were here in the flesh. We

represent Him by doing everything we possibly can to bring people to Him.

John 20:21 - As the Father as sent Me, I also send you.

Jesus is our example. He prayed and continues to pray for us. So we pray!

- He laid His hands on children and prayed for them. (Matt. 19:13) • He prayed for the food before they ate it. (Matt. 14:19)
- He laid hands on the sick. (Luke 13:13)
- He prayed for Himself. (John 17:1-5)

- He prayed for His disciples. (John 17: 6-19)
- He prayed for us. (John 17:20-26)
- He prayed the night He was betrayed. (Matt. 26:36-44)
- He prayed for the people who hung Him on the cross. (Luke 23:34)

Intercession involves a meeting, a conversation, a petition, or even pleading. All effective intercession in prayer is based on the greatest act of intercession: Jesus taking all the sin of all humanity for all time at the cross to make a way for us to be united with God. (Hebrews

10:12) Our prayers of intercession are an extension of His work of intercession. We're Jesus' representatives. We are speaking for Jesus Himself when we declare:

2 Corinthians 5:18 - Become friends with God; He's already a friend with you. (The Message)

When we intercede, we are the “go-betweens” who distribute the salvation, the peace, the grace, the life, and the abundance of God. A great visual example in the scriptures of Jesus' disciples distributing the blessing of God is the story of the loaves and fishes in Matthew 14:

Matthew 14:19-21 - He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to

the crowds, and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

The disciples had to have faith and believe before they turned around to distribute the abundance of the Lord. Our calling is not to replace God, but to release His goodness. And our intercession is based on the finished work of Jesus.

Isaiah 53:12 - For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

God's number one agenda is for the lost people in world to come to know Him. Therefore, that is our primary focus in prayer. Along with that agenda, it is God's desire that we all experience the abundant life that Jesus came to give us; therefore, we are conduits of God's blessings when we pray. (John 10:10)

Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Assignment: Through prayer and declarations of God's word, distribute the grace and goodness of God everywhere you go! Look at people the way that God sees them. See the potential, not the natural. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you His will and His promises for each person you pray for, including yourself.

My targets for distributing God's blessing this week:

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting:

Week Two - Seek First...

~I Am the Righteousness of God in Christ~

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

How can we stand before a holy God and pray? Our right standing before God comes through one thing: the blood of Jesus. The cross purchased for us the ability to meet with God. His Son, Jesus Christ, left heaven to become a baby and grow up with all the pressures and temptations of humanity. He encountered all the feelings, all the abuse, all the limitations of humanity so that He could fully relate to us and deliver us from evil.

Hebrews 4:15-16 - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Because Jesus was blameless and obeyed every commandment of God, He is the only One who could pay the penalty for all our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He is the spotless “Lamb of God”. When we go to God in faith on the basis of the forgiveness we have through Jesus, we can go with confidence.

The Bible calls our right standing before God “righteousness”. It’s the condition of being acceptable to God, perfect in His sight. Jesus gets all the credit and the glory for all of our answers to prayer because we go before the Father with the righteousness of Jesus as our foundation.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD [not the righteousness of man] is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

What is the power of God in prayer? It's the GOSPEL! Jesus Christ died for me and I am no longer condemned! And salvation in this scripture is not just shunning hell and gaining heaven. Salvation is the noun *soteria* in the Greek (the original language of the New Testament), and it comes from the verb *sozo*. *Sozo* means to save, but it's used by Jesus when He healed someone, unstopped deaf ears, opened the eyes of the blind, or raised the dead. Sometimes He would say, "your faith has healed you." That word "healed" is *sozo*. So in other words, the power of God for your healing, for your wholeness, for your mental soundness, for your prosperity is found in the Good News, the gospel of Christ. And this power for salvation is for everyone who BELIEVES - everyone who puts their full hope, trust, and confidence in the Gospel.

Start by faith and end with faith. The righteous shall live by faith! We must believe that we are righteous through the cross. Why must it be by faith? Because every day we will look into the mirror and there will be evidences to the contrary. That's when we need to believe we are righteous by faith.

Whenever you confess "I am the righteousness of God in Christ", you magnify the work of Jesus Christ and what He did; you glorify God who sent His Son. Whenever we come together to pray, we exalt Jesus. We worship Him as the only One who could make us worthy to approach God's throne. He's the source of every need, and He has the answer to every prayer. Seek God's kingdom first, His will, His position above all rule and authority, and His righteousness, and all the other blessings will be added to you! (Matthew 6:33)

Assignment: When you approach the Lord in prayer, go to Him with confidence. Speak these biblical truths over yourself often: "I believe by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ - the Good News that He has saved me, delivered me, made me whole, and given me peace by His blood shed for me on the cross. If by the sin of one man, Adam, death has reigned, how much more do I reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! I receive God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness. I am in Christ Jesus therefore I am no longer condemned. The law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death. I AM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS

OF GOD IN CHRIST. God remembers my sin no more. God so loved me that He gave His only Son. While I was a sinner, Christ died for me. Behold the Lamb of God, who took away my sin! The blood of Jesus has cleansed my conscience. One sacrifice for all my sins forever! Jesus has taken away the handwriting against me, nailing it to the cross. Satan has been disarmed. Sin does not have dominion over me because I am not under law, but under grace. I set me mind on things above where Christ is seated, where I am seated. I am hidden with Christ. I fix my hope completely on Grace. My mind is fixed on Jesus. I trust Him. I receive His peace. I will not let my heart be troubled. I know and believe the love that God has for me. As He is so am I in this world. I prosper in all things because my soul prospers. Thank you Holy Spirit for convicting me of righteousness. I am a new creation. What God began by the Spirit will be perfected by faith. I seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and I am blessed. As I behold His glory, I am transformed from glory to glory. I am rooted and grounded in love; therefore, He is able to do exceedingly above all I can ask or think according to the power working in me. Nothing shall separate me from God's love. Nothing! Amen!*

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting:

*Scripture references: Romans 1:16, Romans 5:17, Romans 8:1-2, Hebrews 8:12-13, John 3:16, Romans 5:8, John 1:29, Hebrews 10:21-22, Hebrews 10:12, Colossians 2:13-15, Romans 6:14, Colossians 3:1-3, Ephesians 1:20-22, Ephesians 2:4-6, Isaiah 26:3, John 14:26-27, 1 John 4:16-19, 3 John 2, John 16:8-9, Galatians 3:3, Galatians 3:29, Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 3:17-20, Romans 8:38-39

Week Three - Praying the Word

~Meditation, Revelation, Faith~

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.... Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the WORD OF GOD. (Hebrews 11:1 and Romans 10:17)

Prayer is speaking words. We ask for things. We make declarations. The words coming out of our mouths are the overflow of our hearts. (Luke 6:45) What's in your heart? Faith is not faith until you speak it. Believe in your heart and speak it out! And remember this important truth: the authority for all of our prayer is the Bible. It is inspired, complete, perfect, finished, and alive.

- Inspired means that it's not just a collection of writings that man put together, but that it was authored by God and penned by the Holy Spirit Himself through the instrument of human beings.
- Complete means it's not missing anything.
- Perfect means it's 100% right.
- Finished means we don't need to add anything to it.
- Alive means the Bible is not just words. John 1:1 tells us that the word is Jesus.

With words God spoke the entire universe into being. (Hebrews 11:3) With words He communicates to us. Jesus is the living Word of God (John 1:1). Jesus and the Word of God are the exact same thing! If Jesus were to show up in the flesh right now where you are, and if there was anyone around you who is sick or bound or depressed, you wouldn't have any trouble believing that Jesus could and would heal them and set them free. Allow your faith to receive that truth so that the Word can work when you pray.

John 6:63 - Jesus said, "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts

for nothing. The WORDS I have spoken to you are SPIRIT and they are LIFE.”

Jesus' words are SPIRIT. The word “spirit”, *pnuema* in the Greek, means the presence of God, or literally the breath of God. The words of the Bible are the very breath of God and have the power for their own fulfillment.

Jesus' words are REVEALED. *Rhema* is the Greek word for “revealed word”. It is used in John 6:63 and it means - no word that God speaks, when it becomes revelation to you, will be void of the power for it to happen.

John 15:7 - If you remain in Me and My WORDS [rhema] remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

Jesus' words are LIFE. Life in this verse is the word *zoe* in the Greek, and it means the miracle-working, supernatural, powerful life. Jesus came to give abundant life and His words are life to those who find them!

Psalm 1 speaks of the blessed man:

Psalm 1:2 - His delight is in the law [the word] of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

Meditation on the Spirit-breathed, life-giving, revealed word of God will make our prayer lives come alive, and we will prosper in every way. The word “meditates” is the Hebrew word *haga* which means to “mutter under your breath” - to speak God's word under your breath. For example, “The Lord is my shepherd... the LORD is my shepherd..He *IS* - right now He *IS* my shepherd...I need guidance... should I take this path or do I take that one instead?...Thank you Lord, You are my shepherd...You guide my decisions...” This is meditating on God's word. Meditation isn't hard. It's as easy as worrying. If you can worry, you can meditate!

Psalm 1:3 - And WHATEVER he does shall prosper.

Whatever you do prospers when you meditate on His word. Whatever is whatever! Meditation produces faith. Powerful, effective prayer is centered on the truth and promises of the Bible. The more of the

Bible we immerse ourselves in, the more revelation we will have. The more revelation we have, the more our faith will be activated in our prayer. And faith will move mountains!

Assignment: As you pray for yourself and others, meditate on specific scriptures. Write them down. When the revelation knowledge of God's word comes, use your faith to declare His truth over every situation you are interceding for.

My scripture targets for meditation, revelation, and faith:

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting:

Week Four - Praying for Personal Needs

~Giving Glory to God~

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God. (Romans 4:20)

Abraham is called the father of our faith, and just like us, he waited on God for an answer to prayer. How did Abraham believe God? How did he become such a person of faith? Abraham's way was this: against all hope, he believed in hope!

Romans 4:16-19 - God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he [Abraham] became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

Abraham and Sarah were 100 and 90 years old, but God had promised them descendants. The Bible says their bodies were as good as dead, but "contrary to hope" Abraham did not give up hope.

Sometimes God will speak to us and everything in the natural says the opposite. Yet God talked about Abraham's descendants when his body was as good as dead.

Romans 4:19-22 - And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God [THE KEY!!], and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Romans 4:20 says he was strengthened in his faith GIVING GLORY TO GOD. What is "giving glory to God"? Is it giving Him majesty? A shining ray of light? Brilliance? Splendor? How could Abraham

possibly give all of that to God? He couldn't! And that's NOT what the word glory means in the New Testament Greek. The word is "doxa" in the Greek, and it always means a "good opinion" in the New Testament. Abraham grew in faith because he gave GLORY to God! He had a good opinion of God! How could Abraham have a good opinion of God?

Romans 4:21 - ...and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Don't pray desperate prayers! Have a good opinion of God and believe that He will hear you and answer. Every time you see God, see a smiling face, never an angry face. See someone who loves you. When we have a good opinion of God, we'll know the truth. There are thoughts that come that we need to combat with the truth. Things like, "Your going to die young. Your father died young, It runs in your family." Those thoughts are very loud in your head so you need to speak up. Say, "God, because You are with me and because You love me,

You will satisfy me with long life." This is from the Bible (Psalm 91:16). But you don't have to know chapter and verse. It's enough to know the truth and to say it! Your statements should all reflect a good opinion of God. God delights in that!

If God shuts a window, have a good opinion that He's going to open a door. When God shuts a door, have a good opinion that He's going to open a big gate! And He won't always explain everything now. He's willing to risk our misunderstanding of Him as long as He is able to love us and protect us. Sometimes we don't understand God's plans, but give God a good opinion and you will find His plans are better than you can imagine.

James 5:13 - Is any among you suffering, let him pray.

Trust the goodness of God. He will be a good Father to you. For people who don't know God, their trials can destroy them. But for you, if you always have a good opinion of God, you can rejoice in your trials because all things work together for our good. (Romans

8:28) Trials and troubles have a redemptive quality for the believer. Through your trials and the goodness of God, you will touch many people.

Assignment: List areas of your life where you are standing on God's promises and growing in faith by having a good opinion of God.

My target areas for a good opinion of God:

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting:

Week Five - Worship

~We Have Confidence To Enter His Presence~

Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

A beautiful picture of the pathway to God's presence is found in the Tabernacle of the Old Testament. It's a picture of how Jesus made a way for us to have fellowship with God. The Tabernacle was made of 3 parts.

There was an open-air outer court where the priests would sacrifice animals on the "brazen altar". This is a reminder to us of Jesus's death on the cross for us - His nail-pierced hands and feet, the crown of thorns, the cut in His side where water and blood poured forth demonstrating His broken heart for us. Oh how He loved us that He would do that for us! Also, in the outer court was the "laver", a bowl lined with mirrors and filled with water representing cleansing from sin. Because of the blood of Jesus, we are cleansed from all unrighteousness.

Next stop was the Holy Place where the priest would go into a covered tent to continue to worship the Lord. In the Holy place were three articles: the table of shewbread, the lamp stand, and the altar of incense. The table of shewbread represents the word of God, fresh bread every day! God's word is our food, our spiritual nourishment to consume daily. Worship Him through the word and pray the word. The lampstand represents the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2) God has given us His Spirit to dwell in us! We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Also in the Holy Place was the altar of incense representing the worship, praise, and prayer of the saints. We worship the Lord by proclaiming our adoration of Him. A wonderful way to express our worship of the Lord is to speak out His names and thank Him for all

that He has done for us and all that He is for us! He is our Righteousness, our Sanctifier, our Healer, our Provider, our Banner of Victory, our Peace, our Shepherd, and the One who is always with us - Emmanuel.

Then lastly the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies where the very presence of God dwelled. The Holy of Holies represents heaven itself, God's dwelling place, to which we have access now through Christ! This is the place we rest in His presence. We hear His voice as He speaks to us about our lives, and we connect with the Lord from the center of our being. His presence dwells in us and He said He would never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5)

1 Corinthians 6:17 - He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Intimacy, our closeness with God, is something to be cultivated in our lives. The Lord wants us to experience His presence and love. Out of that will come trust, wisdom, and direction in life. Intimacy also produces fruit - the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23) The more love we receive in intimacy with the Lord, the more love we will give. The more peace we abide in through resting in the "shadow of His wings" (Psalm 91), the more peace we will walk in. The more joy we experience in His presence, the more attractive He will be in us for the world to see.

The greatest force in the world is love, and love is the essence of intimacy. The Bible says that those who have been forgiven much, love much. (Luke 7:47) We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Romans 5:8 - God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:10 - This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

As we approach the Lord in prayer, we should always focus on the love that He has lavished on us through His Son, Jesus. Don't let YOUR LOVE FOR HIM be your focus; let HIS LOVE FOR YOU captivate

you. His love was expressed through the cross. When you do this, you will love Him back as a response. You will worship Him and adore Him - you won't be able to stop yourself! He has been so good to us! In God's presence we can rest easy knowing that He loves us unconditionally.

Assignment: Practice the presence of God through intimate worship. Worship Him in song and through meditating on His word and His names. Allow yourself prolonged times where you can focus completely on Him. Plan "appointments" with the One who loves you perfectly and completely. You will be refreshed and filled up with His fullness! And out of that will be an overflow that will bless everyone around you.

My targeted worship "appointment" times with the Lord:

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting:

Week Six - Authority in Prayer

~Reign in Life~

If by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will REIGN IN LIFE through the One, Jesus Christ.
(Romans 5:17)

Human beings were created with a nature to rule and to govern. God's original plan was to give Adam and Eve and their descendant's dominion (rule) over the entire earth and all creation. So complete was Adam's authority that he had the ability to give it away - and he did! He gave it to satan when he sinned in the Garden of Eden. But Jesus restored our authority when He was resurrected. He has given the "keys of the kingdom" to the church. (Matthew 6:19)

There are two gifts that cause you to reign in life like a king (Romans 5:17):

#1 - abundance of grace (unearned favor)

#2 - the GIFT of righteousness (our right standing with God because of the cross)

The more we receive the abundance of favor and the gift of righteousness, we will reign in life effortlessly and our faith level for prayer will rise. The devil is so afraid for us to know how to reign in life because he knows that we will begin to reign over sin, over sickness, over poverty, over the curse, and over the devil himself. We will begin to declare God's word and operate in our authority as kings and priests in God's kingdom.

*Revelation 1:5-6 - To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us **KINGS AND PRIESTS** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

God says that through the blood of Jesus, He made us kings and priests. When we know our position, we don't have to make our words happen. We are truly kings. It's not a figure of speech. Kings

in ancient times would stop and sit on the throne before making a decree for the nation. Even if they were walking, they would stop and sit to make their declaration. In the same way, we are seated with Christ in heavenly places far above all rule, power, authority, and dominion. (Ephesians 1:20-21 and Ephesians 2:4-7) Our seated position is where we speak from. It's a place of rest. Never confess out of distress or stress!

God is not telling us to believe that we are seated with Christ so that ONE DAY we will be seated with Christ. No. IT'S A DIVINE REALITY. We are right now seated with Christ. You may not FEEL like you are seated with Christ. You don't feel princely or like a princess or that you have the authority of God flowing through you. You may feel empty or lost sometimes. You may feel depressed. What is all of that? FEELINGS! Feelings have nothing to do with facts.

Colossians 3:1-3 - Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Assignment: Meditate on the following scriptures and list areas where you are taking authority over the power of darkness. Make declarations of God's word from your position in the heavenlies.

Psalm 8:5-6 - You have made man a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! YOU MAKE HIM TO RULE over the works of Your hands.

Psalm 115:16 - The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth HE HAS GIVEN TO MAN.

Ephesians 1:17-19: "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know..... HIS INCOMPARABLY GREAT POWER FOR US WHO BELIEVE. That power is like the working of His mighty strength."

John 14:12 - "Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do EVEN GREATER THINGS than these, because I am going to the Father."

1 John 4:4 - GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN ME than he that is in the world.

Luke 10:19-20 - I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that YOUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN."

My targeted areas for declaration of God's word:

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting:

Week Seven - Spiritual Warfare

~Stand firm and see His deliverance~

We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)

Whether we like it or not, all believers face spiritual warfare. The devil is real and uses strategies against Christians and against the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ. If we embrace the victory we have through Jesus, we will not run from spiritual warfare, but instead we will stand secure and without fear.

Warfare is not a petition, it's a declaration of what Christ already accomplished. DECLARE the word, speak to the demonic forces against you and your families, and continue to exalt the name Jesus which is above every other name in the earth and below the earth. Every knee has to bow.

Acts 2:34-35 - The LORD said to my Lord, "SIT at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

In other words, Jesus defeated all the enemies. Now the Father says, "I'm going to bring them one by one under Your feet." The Father didn't say you can rest only AFTER all the enemies were made a footstool. The Father says sit down FIRST until I make your enemies your footstool... So we are to rest BEFORE we see the victory.

The only fight in the New Testament is to fight the good fight of faith. (1 Timothy 6:12) You are on victory ground. When the devil says, "Come down and fight me", remember that Jesus defeated the devil. Your part is just to REST in the victory.

Remember this: the devil uses fear, worry, guilt, and condemnation as strategies against us.

1 Peter 5:7-8 - cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Look at the context. The context is very clear: satan cannot manage a peaceful believer. The devil is seeking WHOM he MAY devour. He can't just devour anybody. Keep him seeking. The devil has been disarmed (Colossians 2:15), but he can still roar. But don't run if he gets close. Resist him and he will flee. (James 4:7)

Romans 8:37 - We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

We are not the conquerors. We are MORE than conquerors, and Jesus was the conqueror. In the story of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20, God's people never even had to fight. They just praised the Lord and by the time they reached the battlefield, they only had to pick up the spoils from the enemies. All the gold, all the silver. That's a picture of the church. We are seated in Christ, and sitting means you rest.

From 2 Chronicles 20 - Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them.....You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.

If only we had eyes to see that the battle field is strewn with the spoils of victory. Open your eyes - Jesus has brought a perfect victory.

The "work" in warfare is standing firm in the truth of Christ's victory and who you are in Him. Our "weapons" are to stand against satan with His word, His name, and His blood.

His name: Philippians 2:10-11 - At the NAME of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

His word: Romans 10:8-9 - "The WORD is near you. in your mouth and in your heart" --that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, if

you CONFESS with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and BELIEVE in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved!

And "SAVED" is not just forgiveness of sins. It's wholeness of mind, health, deliverance from evil - all the blessings of God poured out!

His blood: Revelation 12:11 - And they overcame him (satan) because of the BLOOD of the Lamb.

Assignment: Look around your world and ask the Lord to show you the enemy's strategy against you, your family, your co-workers, and friends. Are there places where the devil seems to be gaining ground through deception, fear, or condemnation? Declare victorious scriptures. Ephesians 6:17 tells us to take the "sword of the Spirit, which is the WORD of God" as a weapon of warfare. In other words, take the "rhema" of God and stand firm. It's the revealed word that is our sword in warfare. Have a revelation of the power of God's word and it will work for you!

My targeted areas for victory:

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting:

Week Eight - Praying from Peace

~Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled~

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. (Isaiah 26:3)

When we come to God, we should come to Him in perfect peace knowing that He cares and that He is on our side. Before Jesus was betrayed, He prayed to God in the Garden of Gethsemane. There was so much pressure on Him as He prayed, knowing that His time to die was approaching. He literally “sweat great drops of blood”. (Luke 22:44) This was the first place He shed His blood for us. Because of the redeeming quality of Jesus’ blood, He redeemed us from “sweat”. He sweat blood to save us from stress, fear, worry, and anxiety in our minds. He purchased our peace. (Isaiah 53:5)

Therefore, always pray from peace, not from worry or fear. Rest in the finished work of Jesus and have your mind fixed on Him.

John 14:26-27 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

When you pray from peace, the Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance scriptures to believe and stand on. When the Holy Spirit teaches, the result will be peace.

In John 14, Jesus was speaking to His disciples so He would have been speaking in Hebrew. He told them that He was leaving them peace. This is the word *shalom*. According to Strong’s concordance, *shalom* is completeness, welfare, health, prosperity, and peace. So it’s not just peace where we have a tranquil mind. It is much more than that. It means there’s nothing broken, nothing missing.

When Jesus rose from the dead, His first words to His disciples were, “Peace be with you.”

John 20:19-20 - Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands..

Right away He showed them His hands. Why? Because they were the RECEIPT of the payment. He was saying, "Receive your peace; it's paid for." When He appeared they were frightened, but when He showed them His hands, they had peace.

He said, "Not as the world gives do I give to you." Everything the world gives us is outward, but those things cannot give us true peace. They are not resilient, strong, and aggressive like the peace that God gives. In John 14:27 Jesus said the only thing He wants us to do is "let not your heart be troubled." Don't worry about the outside. You guard your heart. You guard the inside and He will guard the outside. "...neither be afraid." Troubled is the first step to being afraid. If your heart is not troubled, it can never be afraid. So don't even ALLOW your heart to be troubled. Your part, your responsibility (the word "response" is in responsibility) is the imperative that you "let not your heart be troubled." Just quoting this verse is powerful all by itself. Say to yourself often, "Let not your heart be troubled." It's amazing! Your heart obeys the voice of its Master, Jesus.

Assignment: Are there any situations, relationships or circumstances that have caused you fear, worry, or anxiety? Take them before the Lord. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Read the following scriptures and worship the One who purchased eternal peace for you.

Hebrews 4:1 - A promise remains of entering His rest; let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Matthew 6:25-29 - Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Exodus 14:13-14 - And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

Matthew 11:28 - Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

My targeted areas for entering God’s rest:

Prayer Points for this week’s small group meeting:

Week Nine - Praying for the Sick

~See Jesus~

“I am the LORD, who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)

When praying for the sick, the best thing we can do is look at Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and read the word concerning healing. There are no formulas to “get someone healed.” When we see Jesus in His word, we behold the glory of the Lord. We need to keep on reading the word again and again and again until we are transformed.

Read through the miracle accounts in the Gospels. There is no question that He will heal.

Luke 5:12-13 - “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately the leprosy left him.

The Bible says He healed ALL. Jesus went about healing every sickness and every disease. (Acts 10:38) He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

When the people heard that Jesus was in the vicinity, they ran to Him and the Bible says “Many were reaching out to touch Him and as many as touched Him even His clothes were made perfect.” (Matthew 14:35-36) Eyes were opened. Demons left. Lives were restored. None of them were confessing their sins. None of them were renouncing anything. They were just touching Him and Jesus’ power went out to them. Freely they received. (Matthew 10:8)

John 14:9 - He who has seen Me has seen the Father.

If we want to know what God’s will is like, we need to look at Jesus. Is it God’s will to heal? Look at Jesus. Do you want to know what God’s heart and attitude toward us is? Look at Jesus.

Proverbs 4:20-22 - My son, give attention to My words; Incline your ear to My sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.

God's promises and His words are alive to those who find them. It's the only medicine with no side effects. If there is any part of our bodies that is sick, God's word is health to us.

Assignment: Read the miracle accounts in the four Gospels and learn about Jesus and His grace and compassion for people. Meditate on the following healing scriptures and pray in faith for the sick.

"I am the LORD, who heals you." (Exodus 15:26)

Great crowds came to Jesus, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at His feet; and He healed them. (Matthew 15:30)

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits-who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases. (Psalm 103:1-3)

When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying His hands on each one, He healed them. (Luke 4:30)

And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all. (Luke 6:19)

He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

A heart at peace gives life to the body. (Proverbs 14:30)

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And

the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. (James 5:14-15)

My targets for God's healing:

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting:

Week Ten - Praying for the Lost

~Lift the Veil~

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

God desires that everyone be saved and that none perish. Scripture after scripture reveals His heart for the lost:

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Psalms 2:8 - Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.

John 11:25-26 - I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.

Luke 10:2 - He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.

Acts 16:31 - Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

Our role in prayer is extremely significant in bringing the lost to Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Notice the word veiled. When there is a perishing person, there's no Gospel being revealed. Who is the one who has put the veil there?

The devil is the “god of this age” and has veiled the eyes of unbelievers. How did satan get the title “god”? In the Garden of Eden God gave Adam authority over the earth to subdue and have dominion over it, but Adam sold out to the devil, and the devil took his title. God did not make the earth to have disasters, earthquakes, tornados, and floods. He didn’t make man to have diseases, be cursed, and die. All of this came with the fall. And God never intended for man to go to hell. Hell was made for satan and his demons, but it’s a place where man can go to pay his own debt.

John 3:17 - For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

The veil is the condemnation that comes from falling short of the glory of God, and the devil will do anything in his power to keep people from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ! The devil is afraid that this glory of Christ in the Gospel will shine on people.

John 12:46 - I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness.

Jesus is so attractive, so glorious. All we need to do is lift the blinders off people’s eyes so they can see Him. Intercession for the lost is one simple prayer: declare that the veil is lifted, that the god of this world is bound, and that the light of the Gospel is revealed!

If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Assignment: Make a list of every person you are in relationship with who does not know the Lord. Bind the god of this world. Pray that the veil of condemnation be lifted and that the light of the glory of Jesus be revealed to them!

My targets for salvation:

Prayer Points for this week's small group meeting: