

LENT 2 SUNDAY

Weekly
Manna
13 March 2022 Issue

“

I Am Your Shield and Your Exceedingly Great Reward

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2 But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ... 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” 5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15: 1-2, 4-6 ESV



Today's Question

What speaks to you from this passage? Share it with someone this week.

Reflection

Scripture readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Your Hearts Will Be Full of Joy

—Henri Nouwen,
<https://henrinouwen.org>

Whereas patience is the mother of expectation, it is expectation itself that brings new joy to our lives. Jesus not only made us look at our pains, but also beyond them. “You are sad now, but I shall see you again and your hearts will be full of joy.” A man or woman without hope in the future cannot live creatively in the present. The paradox of expectation indeed is that those who believe in tomorrow can better live today, that those who expect joy to come out of sadness can discover the beginnings of a new life in the center of the old, that those who look forward to the returning Lord can discover him already in their midst.

PRAYER of the week

Lord Jesus,
Help me to believe
in You and Your
Word at all times.
Amen





A PRAYER STRATEGY FOR LASTING CHANGE

By Wanda Alger,
wandaalger.me

ONE OF THE CHALLENGES OF INTERCESSION IS MAINTAINING THE LARGER VISION AND PURPOSE OF OUR PRAYERS.

As we continue to pray for this nation in the midst of increased lawlessness, anarchy, and rebellion, it is easy to become discouraged and wonder if our prayers are working. However, God is working behind the scenes to do much more than simply address the troubling issues of the day. In His redemptive purposes, He uses the trials and setbacks, and even the enemy's attacks, to sanctify us, make us holy, and become more like Himself (Eph 5:27). Ultimately, He is not after our circumstances as much as He is after us.

Until WE are changed, the culture around us won't change. The kind of transformation He desires always starts with His people.

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Cor 3:18).

“... UNTIL WE ARE CHANGED, THE CULTURE AROUND US WON'T CHANGE. THE KIND OF TRANSFORMATION HE DESIRES ALWAYS STARTS WITH HIS PEOPLE..”

Here are some considerations in our ongoing intercession as we seek to become a transformed people.

1-Focus our prayers on declaring His purposes rather than on fixing the problems.

It's easy to get fixated on the issues at hand and forget His ultimate purpose in transformation. Until we can displace the godlessness with true righteousness through Christ, cycles of sin will continue. This requires a change of values and beliefs as we align our hearts and our prayers with His eternal Word. Pray beyond the problem and declare His promise! Pray God's heart and will over the situations at hand, and don't get distracted by the seeming discrepancies.

2-Focus our prayers on God's increasing kingdom instead of the world's crumbling systems.

Apart from Christ, this world will continue to fall apart. We shouldn't be surprised at the failure of man's attempts to secure peace and freedom. God will continue to shake everything that can be shaken in order for the reality of His kingdom to be clearly demonstrated through His people (Heb.12:27-28). Instead of praying "against" things, pray FOR the purposes of God to prevail! Spend time in worship and praise so that the King of glory may come in (see Psalm 24:9).

3- Address the sin issues (dying carcasses on the land) instead of fighting the devil (shooting the buzzards).

The only reason our spiritual adversary has any foothold, both personally and corporately, is because of sin and unbelief. These attract the enemy just as rotting flesh on the ground attracts buzzards. Rebuking the enemy (shooting the buzzards) won't do any good if we don't deal with the sin (removing the flesh). Living a holy and righteous life is one of the best means to attracting heaven and repelling hell (2 Cor 2:15; Eph 5:2). Pray for obedient hearts that quickly respond to His Word.

Pray that we would not only “turn from our wicked ways” but demonstrate holy lives that attract heaven.

4-Shift from a warfare mentality to a Presence reality.

Spiritual warfare may be necessary for a season but it was never intended to be a lifestyle. We were created to LIVE FROM and IN God’s presence (Acts 17:28; Isa 63:9; Psalm 27:4-6). We need to remember the supernatural power of God’s tangible presence (Isa 63:9).

Throughout biblical history, the greatest victories came because of God’s presence, not because of man’s skills at warfare (the battle of Jericho in Josh 6; Jehoshaphat’s army in 2 Chron 20; the cloud of His presence at the Red Sea). There is no glory in battle. Our glory should be in The One who has already defeated the devil. Spend time in celebrating the victory of our King and avoid fighting an enemy who has already lost.

5- Know that our spiritual authority in prayer comes more from who we are than from what we pray.

It is not the specific words of our prayers that change things, but the condition of our hearts and the obedience of our walk. A transformed life is one that loves to do what we ought to do because we live, speak, and pray from a relationship that has radically changed us from the inside out. “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (John 15:7).

In our desire to see things change in our nation, let us remember that WE are the ones who must change first. The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives inside us, and has power to bring new life to every nation and every tribe. As we are transformed, everything around us will begin to reflect the power of His kingdom. Let our prayers reflect this goal.



**Intercession is always
about the land.**
(c.f. Ezekiel 22:30)
Suzette Hattingh

The Church (Body of Christ)

Father, we forsake idolatry and seek first Your kingdom and all Your righteousness,
In our relationships with each other, may love be our priority. May we make all effort to be united as one Body in Your plans and purposes and the bond of peace.

Your voice we will hear and not the voice of another. At all times, teach us by Your Spirit to walk in obedience to You, serving You with a clear conscience to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. Your kingdom come, Your will be done. Amen

Justice & Truth

Continue to remember Pr. Raymond Koh, Joshua & Ruth Hilmy, Amri CM as well as others who have suffered injustices;

for the legal teams and all who continues to stand courageously for Your justice and truth.
For courageous judges that protects justice, truth and mercy to prevail.
Father, may Your mercy and righteousness visit us as the early and latter rain. Amen.

BLC Community

Pray for healing for those are affected by Covid or who are unwell in our community.

Pray for provision of those affected by inflation.

Pray for the peace of Christ for the fearful, comfort for the hurting, healing for the sick, grace for the weary.

Nations

World

For the Russia-Ukraine conflict

Malaysia

For Johor's elections outcome.
For the matter of unilateral conversions.

For medical justice regarding Act 342 amendments.
For Malaysia's economic stability, food security - that the supply chain won't be disrupted, justice in financial decisions by BNM.
For the pandemic to end, and healing for the nations & the earth. Amen.

Righteousness & Freedom

For the love of truth, justice, mercy, righteousness and humility to be the foundations of our nation and its inhabitants.

For the judiciary system to remain free and committed to establishing justice and truth for both the individual and the land.

For the protection of freedom of personal choices and rights of the people; minority or at large - to be respected, upheld and honored.

LCM

Lord, we ask for Your wisdom and discernment, healing and health and provision for workers in the harvest field.

Prayer Support

SUPPORTING YOU IN PRAYER.

Send in your requests via
WhatsApp to Rt. Rev. Thomas,
Adeline or our Council.

Announcements

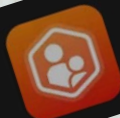
Upcoming:
18 March & 16 April
WEW via Zoom at 3pm
Speak with Sheh=Ren is
interested.

Tuesday Bible Study
8:30pm weekly
Speak with Janelle if interested.

MEM
16 & 30 March, 13 & 27 April
8:30pm, Wednesdays
Giving Tree
8:15pm, Fridays
Speak with Larry if interested.

Friday Bible Study
For more info, please speak
with Ling Ling.

Good stuff: Prayer App for Families
Tap icon below for more info.



Lectio for Families
24-7 Prayer

Tithes & Offerings

Account Details

BANGSAR LUTHERAN CHURCH
RHB BANK Acc No.

2142 77 0000 6185

Please specify area of giving in the e-transfer, e.g. Tithe, General Offering, Mission* or Agape Fund.

*The BLC Missions Collections supports the following:

- Batu 20, Orang Asli (OA) Congregation
- United Voice - Moh Foong
- Bible Translation Researchers
- Alongsiders (<http://alongsiders.org>)

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**THE
FATHER'S
HOUSE
WELCOMES YOU**

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