

## Praying for Our Local Church Body

(Footnotes refer to Scriptures on page 3 for meditation and further prayers)

Holy God, we pray that our **pastoral staff** would have hearts humbly and passionately devoted to glorifying You alone. May they first and foremost know You intimately in the secret place. We beseech You to empower our ministers and teachers of Your word to study Your word diligently and speak Your words anointed with the Holy Spirit of truth. As in the Book of Acts, we ask that Your **Word would go out from our ministers with great fruitfulness.** Through them, pierce us to repentance, convict us to submit to Your Lordship, encourage us to press on as maturing disciples, and lead us in walking according to Your plans and purposes. May they possess for the sheep: wise, bold, and loving counsel; deep intercession; and outward acts of kindness. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit flow freely through them. Grant them creative abilities and wisdom as administrators. Protect and provide for them and their families, deliver them from evil, lead them away from temptation, and grant them perseverance through trials. As appointed to assist in overseeing and carrying out these responsibilities, we also pray these same prayers for the **elders, board members, and all those called to minister and lead in specific ways.** (1)

Good Shepherd, recognizing your profound love for the precious souls of the next generation, we ask that their ministers are also blessed with unique abilities to reach out to the various age groups entrusted to them with love and insight for each individual, whether a newborn babe or a teenager. We cry out for youth workers to set examples of godly living according to what is good, right, pure, true, and lovely; we implore that our youth would desire to walk as they have seen in the godly lives of their mentors. Give the leadership special discernment to care for troubled youth. Call many mature disciples to become dedicated to **youth ministries.** (2)

Bless our **office professionals** who are the first faces to greet others with the love of Christ. Give them skills, abilities, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control, as they provide vital support services to our leadership and body. (3)

Appoint **music ministers** who stand in awe before the splendor of Your holiness and are humbly anointed to lead us in worshipful songs, hymns, and spiritual songs of praise and adoration. (4)

We ultimately lift in prayer **every person, whether financially compensated or volunteering,** who endeavors to work devotedly in the kingdom with their gifts and talents. May every act performed in service to you produce thirty, sixty, and even a hundredfold bounty. (5)

Almighty God, Let our **times of gathering together** for Sunday and Wednesday meetings, home groups, and every event, advance Your kingdom through Your Holy Spirit's intervention; sharing, preaching and teaching the Word, the cross, the resurrection, the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit, baptism; genuine worship; sincere communion; effective prayers; and demonstrations of kindness. Let every action in our meetings be done decently and in order. Let the leadership of the gathering be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. Let the primary purpose and outcome be that You – blessed Father, glorious Jesus, and Holy Spirit – are increased and our flesh is decreased. Let us send out with anointing, missionaries or others directed by the Holy Spirit to a new place. (6)

Grant our congregation **favor in the neighborhood and community,** and favor with all governing authorities. Build us up with a godly reputation as a people who give glory to God with our good works. Keep us outwardly focused. Let us not just exist as a congregation within a building but as vibrant believers in our personal neighborhoods, and in our schools and marketplaces, spreading everywhere the sweet fragrance of Jesus. Enable us to extend sacrificial mercy and be equipped to meet every kind of need. Let us know what it means to minister to the least of these, since You show no partiality, and we, too, are lost without Your mercy, kindness, and grace. (7)

Great Redeemer, let us **present the gospel to the lost** with the love of Jesus and with the power of Your Holy Spirit of conviction, judgment, and righteousness. Let each one be diligently prepared to provide a testimony of how You brought us from darkness to light. Give us fortitude to answer the call to make disciples right here in our communities. Let us be salt and light. We renounce fear of man that plagues us from responding to the still voice of your spirit dwelling within us **to reach out to the lost, the hurting, and the needy** in whatever way we can, in word, in deed, in generosity. Almighty God, when the only answer to Your will, plans, and purposes will take a miracle, then give us the measure of faith we need to be conduits of all that you desire – in salvation, healing, transformation, and blessing – to give the lost and hurting around us and the needy among us. Help unbelief. Guard us against any pride as we ask for what the world would call “the impossible” for ourselves and others. May every transformation in spirit, mind, body, and emotion only serve to prepare Your eternal and spotless Church for eternity. (8)

Merciful Father, we know how crucial the **unity of this body** is in endeavoring to carry out its highest calling. We ask that You would answer the specific prayer of Your Son and our beloved Savior when the night before He went to the cross He prayed we would be perfected in unity and bring Him glory. Let us care deeply for one another. Let us show first Your **love** to our own brothers and sisters in Christ that sit among us, call this home, and name us as a church family. If there be any hurt among us, let us recognize how critical it is to make amends quickly. We express eager desire for the **gifts of Your Holy Spirit** for the common good. Help us to understand the various gifts and exercise them only in love and without error, so we are a **fully equipped body ever ready for service.** (9)

High and Exalted One, call us to become a passionate **house of prayerful people.** Cause us to stand with watchful fervency for your return; to astutely call out Your Word and Your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven; to seek You in the quiet place of intimacy and commit there to repentance and forgiveness; to participate in periods of fasting; to offer praise and thanks with sincere and effervescent words and songs; to run to your throne room under the sprinkling of your blood; to make our supplications and intercessions known to you, as you guard our collective hearts and minds with perfect shalom peace. (10)

Gracious Provider, meet every **financial need** of this church. Impress on each one of us the blessing found in being a generous tither and giver so the entire body can benefit. Grant every one financial blessing no matter what the world’s economic climate says; the ability to spend wisely; and a purposeful heart to sow generously into the church. Let us count it a privilege to be cheerful givers with every resource of money, time, talent, skill, and ability that you have given us, since all good gifts have come from You alone. We commit to a clear understanding that eternal treasures are the only ones that last. Give prudence and wisdom to those entrusted to oversee how funds are spent and dispensed, and let no one be tempted to misuse. Grant us the physical buildings and open homes we need to gather together as a vibrant and growing body of Christ. (11)

God of Righteousness, we do not shirk away from being fully formed by Your hand that finishes the Potter’s molding, the Farmer’s grooming, and the Refiner’s crafting. Although we will experience times of trial and testing, **protect** us from any wolf that would try to infiltrate our body by the enemy’s scheming and thereby bring devastation or destruction. Help us to be shrewd yet innocent. Show us how to test every spirit. Give us discernment to quickly recognize the enemy’s scrimmages, as we commit to standing firm with our armor fully on. Remind us when we need it most that we **battle** not against other people but against spiritual forces. We commit now to take up Your arsenal – such as the power in studying, knowing, sharing, and applying Your Word; praise, thanksgiving, and rejoicing in You; prayer and fasting; repentance and denial of the flesh; forgiveness and good works toward others; loving the body of Christ as united with us to You; and ultimately loving You with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strengths! (12)

In the blessed Name above all names, the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!

*Meditate upon and present these Scriptures before the Lord. Pray the descriptions of a healthy body of Christ as in the Word, are present, are coming to pass, and will be sustained.*

**1. Leadership**

2Kings 4:33. Jer 3:15. Jer 9:24. Matt 6:6. Matt 28:19-20. Acts 2:37-39. Acts 5:20. Acts 6:4. Acts 10:44. Acts 14:3. Acts 14:23. Acts 19:5-6. Acts 20:19. Acts 24:16. 1Cor 4:1-2. 2Cor 4:1,13. Eph 5:21. Col 1:28. 1Tim 3:1-4. 1 Tim: 5:17. 2 Tim 2:15. Tit 1:7. Heb 4:12.

**2. Special Youth Ministries**

Prov 7:1-2,7. Prov 19:20. Prov 22:6. Matt 19:14. Acts 2:39. Phil 4:8-9. 1 Tim 4:12. 1Jn 2:14. 3 John 1:4.

**3. Office Professionals**

Psalm 90:17. Gal5:22-23.

**4. Music Ministers**

2 Chron 20:21. Psalm 149-150.

**5. All Workers**

Matt 13:8. Acts 20:35. 1 Cor 16:15-16. 2 Cor 9:12-13. Eph 6:7-8.

**6. Gatherings**

Matt 26:26-28. Luke 22:19-20. Jn 3:30. Jn 16:13. Acts 2:37,38,46. Acts 4:10-12,29. Acts 5:6. Acts 13:3. Acts 19:17-20. Rom 12:1. 1Cor 14:40. Gal 6:2. Eph 5:19. Col 3:16. Heb 10:25. James 5:16.

**7. Favor in the Community**

Gen 33:10. Gen 39:4. 1 Sam2:26. Prov 3:4. Prov 22:1. Dan 1:9. Matt 25:40. Acts 2:47. Acts 10:34. Rom 2:4. 1Cor 10:31. 2Cor 2:14-15. Col 4:5. 1Tim 3:7.

**8. Reach the Lost, Hurting, and Needy**

Is 6:8. Is 61:1-3. Matt 5:13-16. Matt 28:19-20. Mark 9:23-24. John 16:8. Acts 4:29. Acts 5:6,16. Acts 9:36. Acts 26:18. Rom 8:31. Rom 12:3. 2Cor 1:3-4. 2Cor 5:17. Gal 1:10. Eph 5:27,32. 1 Thes 1:5. Heb 10:24. 1Pet 3:15.

**9. Unity in the Body**

Matt 5:23-24. John 17:20-23. Rom 12:4-10. Rom 15:5-7. 1Cor 12-13. Eph 4. Col 3:12-15. 1Pet 1:22.

**10. House of Prayer**

Neh 4:9. Psalm 119. Is 62:6-8. Matt 6:6-18. Matt 7:7-11. Mark 13: 34-37. Mark 14:37-38. Luke 18:1. Acts 3:19. Acts 12:5. Phil 4:6-7. 1Thes 5:17. Heb 10:22.

**11. Finances**

Deut 8:18. Ruth 2:12. 1Chron 29:10-17. Psalm 1:2-3. Psalm 37:25. Prov 3:5-6. Prov 3:9-10. Prov 10:2-5. Prov 13:11. Prov 16:3. Mal 3:10-12. Matt 6: 19-21. Luke 6:38. 1Cor 9:7-14. 2Cor 9:6-15. Phil 4:19. James 1:5.

**12. Spiritual Battle**

Psalm 91. Psalm 100. Is 58:6. Jer 18:4. Hos 4:6. Mal 3:3. Matt5:44-48. Matt7:15-20. Matt 10:16. Matt 17:21. Mark 2:20. Luke 9:23. Luke 10:27. John 15:1. John 10:10-16. Acts 1:14. Acts 3:19. Acts 7:60 & 8:1 & 9:3-6 & 15-20. Rom 8:5-9. Rom 12:20-21. 1Cor 6:17. 2Cor 10:4-5. Eph 2:10. Eph 4: 1-3. Eph 5:32. Eph 6. Phil 4:4. 1Thes 5:17. Heb 4:15-16. 1John 4:1. Rev 21:2,12.