

Prayer Guide May 18-24

Introduction:

In our society, it seems the word hope only expresses a wish or desire we have like, “I hope we can go there sometime.” It doesn’t necessarily convey much confidence. Whereas, in the Bible the Word hope means to expect with confidence and to cherish a desire with anticipation or expectation. While thinking about the word hope and Romans 15:13, that our God is a God of Hope, I picked up the book “The Praying Grandmas” are reading, to study the next chapter, which is entitled “My Life is Hopeless.” (The book teaches about replacing the lies of the enemy with the truth of God’s Word.) The story of Elijah, King Ahab, and the drought is included in the chapter (1 Kings 18). Usually, we focus on Elijah and his faith and how he continued to ask God to make it rain even when there was no evidence of his prayers being answered. While that is a powerful message to remind us to continue to ask, what caught my attention, was I had never thought about the situation from the servants’s perspective. The author asked, “How do you think the servant felt when he ran down the mountain the first time and didn’t see a cloud in the sky? Do you think he was nervous telling Elijah the bad news? This prophet had just had 850 prophets of Baal killed!” But then he had to do it again and again and again and probably by the 6th time we would have wanted to say, “Mr. Elijah, I think you heard the Lord wrong! Man it is hopeless! God’s not doing anything! (And besides, I’m getting tired of running up and down this mountain!) But of course, the 7th time he gets to see a little something-not very big-but something! (Amazing how good our Lord is to let us see a little something to encourage us!) But the question is, “Was God working the whole time, even when he couldn’t see?” Think about the invisible water vapors arising around us every day that we don’t see! In John 5:17 Jesus says, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” May we keep our eyes on the Word of the Lord and that our God is a God of Hope and that He is always working! Thank you Lord, that we always have hope in You, our God of Hope, that you are working in the lives of those we are praying for, even if we don’t see it! Help us to never lose hope!

Adoration:

Part 1-Read the scriptures and praise God for who He is.

Romans 15:13

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Psalm 62:1-8 (ESV)

My Soul Waits for God Alone

1. For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

- 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.
- 3 How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
- 4 They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse. *Selah*
- 5 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.
- 6 He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- 7 On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
- 8 Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

- *Lord, we praise You that You are our God of Hope and that You fill us with joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in Hope—that confident expectancy in You, for we trust in You! (Romans 15:13)*
- *O my soul remember that God is my source of hope and focus only on Him and wait quietly before Him, for from the Lord comes my salvation! (Ps. 62:1)*
- *I proclaim that You only, O Lord, are my rock and my salvation, my fortress and protection and to your promises, your Word, I run and trust and cling and I will not be greatly shaken or moved for all of your promises find their Yes in Jesus! (Ps. 62:2; 2 Corinthians 1:20)*
- *Even though we have enemies that would attack or batter us, to try to bring us down, those who take pleasure in falsehoods, our hope is from You O God! O my soul, wait in silence for God alone! (Ps. 62:3-5)*
- *O my soul, God only is my rock, my salvation, and my fortress, so I will not be shaken! I will remain in that place of trust in and surrender to God! My complete and confident expectation is upon God! (Ps.62:6)*
- *On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. (Ps. 62:7)*
- *I will trust in God at all times and I will remind my brothers and sisters in Christ to do so as well! We will pour out our hearts before You for You greatly care for your people and You are our refuge, our place of safety, our God of Hope! (Ps. 62:8; Rom. 15:13)*

Confession and Repentance:

Part 1-Read the scriptures given and a typed prayer in response to the truth of the Word. Read the prayer as your own to God.

Psalm 42:5-6

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation **6** and my God.
My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you...

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lord, we confess our sin of taking our eyes off of you and spending too much time focusing on the wrong things. When we do we find that we become discouraged and downcast and we do not help to spread the good news of your great love! You promise that you will keep us in perfect peace when our mind is stayed on You. Please forgive us for not keeping our eyes on You-for You are our hope and salvation, our God and King! Help us O Lord, to remember You- to meditate on your word and to keep it ever before us! Thank you Lord for your faithfulness to forgive our sin, and that You will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that You don't give up on us and You do not proclaim us hopeless, but that You are always at work, working for our good to change us and to conform us to the image of your son! In Jesus name, Amen.

Part 2-Ask the Lord to reveal to you any sin in your heart and to help you to receive His correction. Pray your own prayer of confession and repentance and receive His forgiveness.

Thankfulness

Part 1- Read the scriptures given and use the points provided to praise and thank the Lord, as well as allowing the Lord to show you other things to be thankful for.

John 16:33. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Hebrews 6:18-20

18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. **19** We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, **20** where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Romans 15:4

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- *Thank You Lord, that even in the midst of trouble, we have things to be thankful for, for You have overcome the world! (Jn. 16:33)*
- *O Lord, thank You that You do not lie and You provide strong encouragement for those who take refuge in you. Thank You for the hope You have set before us, that confident expectancy! (Heb. 6:18)*
- *Thank You for the sure and steadfast anchor of our souls, that hope that enters into the inner place, your presence, where Jesus has gone before us on our behalf, as our high priest! Thank You that through the blood of Jesus we are washed white as snow! We praise You that Jesus Christ is our Hope! (Heb. 6:19-20)*
- *Thank you O Lord that through endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we have hope. (Rom. 15:4)*

Supplication and Intercession:

Part 1-Read the scriptures given and pray as the Lord leads you.

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV)

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet

together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Pray for the body of Christ:

- *Lord, we pray for believers everywhere, that we will honor Christ our Lord, as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks us for a reason for the hope that is in us and to do it with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)*
- *O Lord please help us, your people, to cling to that confidence that we can enter into your presence, the holy place by the blood of Jesus, that He opened for us through the curtain, His flesh, and that He is our Great High Priest. (Heb. 10:19-21)*
- *Help us O Lord, to draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Heb. 10:22)*
- *Help us O Lord, to hold fast to our confession of hope without wavering, for You are faithful O Lord, and You have promised us! (Heb. 10:23)*
- *We pray O Lord, that You will help us to consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. (Heb. 10:24)*
- *Lord, we ask You to help us to never neglect meeting together but to recognize our need of one another, to encourage one another, to pray together, and to praise and worship You together even more so as we see the Day drawing near! (Heb, 10:25)*

Part 2-Continue to pray as the Lord leads you for those who are sick; for medical workers, caregivers, emergency relief teams, and government leaders; for a cure for the virus; for teachers and students; for pastors and churches; for families; for peace for those living in uncertainty; for God's comfort and help for those in fear or anxiety or financial stress; for Christians to point others to Christ by showing others His love; for laborers in the Harvest Field; for the salvation of many souls; for a great Christ-centered revival in our country; for continued freedom to openly practice our faith; as well as others the Lord places upon your heart.

Psalm 25:5

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior,

and my hope is in You all day long.

