

PRAYER GUIDE

PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

City View Church

July 2022

Day 1

On this first day of focused prayer for our pastor search team, we acknowledge that prayer starts with faith. Prayer without faith is just words, but prayer with faith is powerful. Each time we pray in faith, God grows confidence in our hearts that He is able.

Let's review a few promises of God:

- *"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." Psalm 145:18*
- *"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*
- *"I waited patiently for the Lord, he turned to me and heard my cry." Psalm 40:1*

When we reflect on these promises, they should light a fire in our spirit. However, we want to dwell on an additional truth in our pursuit of the Lord today.

In Exodus 17: 8-13, the Amalekites, enemies to Israel, attacked Israel. God sent Moses, Aaron and Hur to the mountainside overlooking the battlefield. Moses was commanded by God to lift up his hands to God in prayer. The truth taught here is that prayer opens up God's supernatural intervention. Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the mountain because they were totally dependent on God. They could not exist without God's intervention. Moses kept his hands toward God as an act of prayer and an expression of dependence on Him. Moses, Aaron, and Hur saw with their own eyes that not only was God willing, but God was able. God's intervention was supernatural. The Bible reveals to us that God is able, willing, and waiting, but if we never call on him, depend on Him, or seek Him in prayer, we are saying, "I've got this!"

The pastor search team needs prayerful hearts because this task cannot be accomplished without His intervention. Moses interceded because he knew the Israelite army couldn't, but God could. CVC family, join your pastor search team today and for the next seven days pray and ask the God who can intervene in this search. He can always accomplish what we cannot.

Margaret Collins is a member of the pastor search team. Today, ask God to encourage her heart by showing her God-is-able qualities.

Day 2

Some people are very reluctant to pray because they are not sure if God is willing to listen, or willing to do anything to change life's situation. Some even feel that what will be will be, so prayer will not really help.

In Luke 18: 1-8, Jesus teaches us about the nature of God who hears our prayers. A widow came to an unjust judge with a request. She was desperate; she could not survive without his help. The judge rejected her for he did not care and was not the least concerned. But Jesus said that she continually returned and never stopped no matter what the judge said to her. Jesus said that the widow wore him down to the point that he finally gave in to her request. He just wanted to get rid of her.

Some say that Jesus is teaching that He expects us to persevere in prayer to the point of exhausting God so He will give into our requests. Absolutely not! God is not an unjust judge that we must bribe or coerce. We come to God in faith. We believe that He will give to us willingly. He is a righteous judge who deeply loves us. He is our Heavenly Father.

In Matthew 7:11, Jesus says, "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give you good gifts to those who ask him."

Today, pray with confidence that our heavenly Father desires to give CVC the lead pastor we need. Ephesians 4:11 teaches that God gives the church pastors and teachers to prepare God's people, so we are praying according to his will. God is the one who sends our pastor. Pray: "Lord, we know you freely give us your good gifts. We receive!"

Keith Davis is a member of the pastor search team. Today, ask God to encourage his heart so that he will see and receive God's good gifts.

Day 3

When coming in faith to God with a request, God desires that we be open for Him to work in ways unknown to us. Praying for our pastor search team is asking God to open their eyes to His will. To be more specific, ask God to make His candidate seem unique among many and for wisdom to recognize this candidate as the right person for CVC.

In Exodus 17:1-7, God's people were traveling in the wilderness and were in great need for water. They made their request known. This is like our great need for a lead pastor. Moses made this request known to God. God responds to Moses: "See that rock?" Moses could have wondered: "Why a rock? We want water! Shouldn't we be looking toward the ground which is the common place to get water?"

Moses focused on God and was obedient to God's directions and the Israelites had an abundant amount of water. God's ways are not our ways and God wants us to know He is the sole giver of all our needs. He is our source, shepherd, and truth.

Ask God today to reveal Himself to our pastor search team and direct them in ways they will know and see His hand.

Jon Hearing is a member of the pastor search team. Today, pray that he may see God's unique leading and the majestic ways He makes Himself known.

Day 4

Most of us would be surprised that the pastor search team has been working for a year. We often find people discouraged, fearful or confused over God's seeming delay. The next two days we hope to grow in confidence as we intercede for our pastor search team in encouragement.

In Acts 12:7-10, King Herod Agrippa arrested Peter after Herod observed that it pleased the Jews that he killed James, the brother of John. He assigned 16 Roman soldiers to guard Peter until his trial and execution. The Christians knew that there was no way they could free Peter by force. They prayed, but Peter was still in prison the night before the trial. The Christians gathered for an all-night prayer gathering to ask God to rescue Peter.

At this point of desperation, if honest, many of us get to the place of feeling, "God, we are running out of time. Lord, if you have not done it by now, we are ready to give up." We have all been there!

When we read this text, we find that that very night while the Christians were praying, God sent an angel amid all the soldiers and walked Peter out of jail without anyone noticing that he was gone. No one would have thought of this tactic, nor this timing. When Peter interrupted the prayer meeting, no one really believed it was Peter at the door of the house. God had worked in an unexpected way. He is powerful; He has limitless resources at his fingertips; He desires to not only bless and guide us, but to reveal to the world who He is.

Pray that CVC will remain confident that God is still working when we don't see his hand. He is preparing us and our lead pastor and bringing us together in a way that will glorify Him. And it is always worth waiting on the Lord so we can witness that His ways are always right and on time.

Gary Mullenix is a member of the pastor search team. Today, pray that God will encourage Gary and that his heart will grow in great anticipation as he sees God's hand unfold his majesty in this pastor search.

Day 5

There is one significant reason that people don't pray. It is connected to the common sin of man: "I got this!" We really don't think we need to pray because we think we can handle life on our own.

In Acts 27, Paul had been arrested and was on his way to Rome to stand trial before the Roman Caesar. Paul traveled by ship from Jerusalem with an escort of Roman soldiers. There were professional pilots and sailors in complete and confident command to direct the ship. They knew the routes, currents, winds, and weather. If you questioned them, they would reply, "We've got this!"

Paul had prayed and announced to everyone on the ship that the ship would be destroyed, but that everyone would survive. You can imagine how this would be received by the crew. It fell on deaf ears. You can hear in unison their response, "We've got this! No worries."

If you read this long passage, you discover that the ship's crew lost everything including cargo and personal items. They even tied ropes around the ship to keep it from breaking apart but could not save the ship. In the darkest hour, Paul prayed, encouraged, and reaffirmed all the 276 people that none would be lost. Paul convinced the Roman guard not to kill their prisoners before the ship went down.

One of the truths found clearly in this passage, is no matter how seasoned at a task we think we are, we need God, and we should invite him to direct our paths. No matter what we face in life, we don't know all the facts and unseen things going on. God will reveal the unknown and direct us through the unforeseen troubled waters. Thank God Paul prayed and listened. Pray that our pastor search team will humble themselves to God's leadership and will be aware of everything that God desires to show us.

Marie Reilly is a member of the pastor search team. Today, pray that she will be encouraged, and God will continue to open her heart to His leadership. May she be amazed at the new insights that God reveals to the team.

Day 6

With all the examples recorded from Genesis to Revelation of God's people calling on the name of the Lord and God's response to them, why would we ever cease doing the same? Do we think we are living in such different times? Do we consider ourselves more knowledgeable or astute, or that God doesn't require it?

There is a scripture that is often quoted and has great impact on this matter. It is Isaiah 40: 27-31. In the context, Isaiah has reviewed the majesty of God and His design and control over all creation. Then in verse 27, God reveals the misconception that He is too great to care. But ponder verses 28-31: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youth grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength..."

God is great, but He also cares about us. He is great in his intimate love for us. He is great in his knowledge of us. He strengthens, empowers, and knows how to pick us up when we fall. We can call upon the name of the Lord and while He already knows our needs, He gifts us with the experience of being carried by His greatness.

It's almost impossible to comprehend that we have a sovereign God wanting to care so completely for us. Think about it. He offers such a great salvation, shares his presence, wisdom, strength, renews our weary spirits, and by doing so, reveals Himself to the world. Why should we ever think we might outgrow our dependence on God? No, we don't live in a different time. We still cannot exist without God. We will never be so wise as to be able to do so.

Pray that our pastor search team will be encouraged by knowing that our great God is there waiting to lift them up when they are weary and will be led to know His will.

Sabrina Thomas is a member of the pastor search team. Today, pray that God will renew her strength and give her power to soar on His wings like an eagle. Pray that she will be overwhelmed by His greatness and His love.

Day 7

When we pray, we need to ask ourselves, "Where is God?" In John 15:5-8, Jesus gives us a very descriptive picture of our relationship with Him. As followers of Christ, we celebrate "Christ in us." (Colossians 1:27) Jesus gives us Himself and we live in his presence. In prayer, as we converse intimately and humbly submit to his word, we can claim the promise "ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you." If we truly abide in Him with a desire to obey and accomplish His will, we know our requests line up with his heart.

When we reflect on the Old Testament, God wanted his people to know he was near by being present in the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. The tabernacle had the glory of God (God's presence) over it. In the New Testament, Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us. He was Immanuel, God with us. Now Jesus' presence is in us.

Psalm 139:7-10 states "Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

In prayer, you may feel distant, alone, unworthy, or even shameful, but this is a tactic of the enemy. Open your heart in faith and realize the vine (Jesus) is still flowing through you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Start your prayers with celebration and humbly acknowledge His presence. As soon as you call upon His name, He starts working, the fellowship begins, and we are the ones who are changed. Our perspective about life changes and even our requests may become different because the mountain we face now is seen from God's viewpoint.

Pray that our pastor search team will be encouraged by the overwhelming presence of God in each gathering. Pray that we will be open to his molding of our hearts into a oneness to His.

Ron Tyndall is a member of the pastor search team. Today, pray that his heart will be encouraged and that he will celebrate God's overwhelming presence and his heart will desire the same things as God's.

Day 8

Daniel 2:20-23 is one of the exciting testimonies concerning answered prayer. Daniel and his three friends were facing death (along with all the spiritual leaders for the Babylonian king). King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and none of the national spiritual leaders could interpret it. The king ordered all the national and the captured spiritual leaders be executed. When they came for Daniel and his friends, Daniel asked if he could have time to respond to the king's request. Daniel was granted the evening to pray so that he could seek an answer for the king. Daniel asked his friends to pray with him. This is what we as a church have done these eight days.

We have come together in prayer asking God to grant wisdom to our pastor search team. During the night, the friends prayed for "mercy from God of heaven concerning this mystery." God revealed to Daniel the meaning of the dream so that he could interpret for the king. We find Daniel's praise to God after the answer to his prayer.

- *Daniel praised God that wisdom and power are His.*
- *Daniel praised God that He gives wisdom to those who seek Him.*
- *Daniel praised God that He reveals deep hidden mysteries.*

In verse 23, Daniel said, "I thank and praise you, O God of my Father: you have made known to me what we asked of you." What great confidence do we have as God's children that God reveals His will to us. We know it is his nature. We know that nothing is hidden from Him. We know that we are in the hands of a loving and generous Heavenly Father.

James 1:5 states "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him."

With these truths about prayer, we pray that there will be no doubt that God has answered, and his revelation is on the way.

Make a commitment today to pray for the Pastor Search Team every day going forward, that you may be an active participant in the search process by lifting up and interceding for them and for the pastor that the Lord is preparing to call to City View Church.