

## GW

# A Prayer To The God Of My Life (Ps 42:8)

Mark 11:15 tells us that **Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'?**

It is impossible to overstate the importance of prayer. Nothing in life is too small to take to God in prayer. And nothing done in the worship of God should ever impede it, but only promote it. This morning we will bathe ourselves in prayer. With God's help this place will literally be a house of prayer. May it be a seismic Sunday for you, pulling down barriers that keep you from prayer. May you be freed up to commune with God in this most wonderful and challenging exercise. What better way to start than by singing a prayer?

## Come Thou Fount

Sometimes our prayers are a fountain of praise that that gushes up as we recall all that God has done for us. Listen to David's response to the words of Nathan the prophet, telling David all that God intended to do for him and through him. 2 Samuel 7:18 - 29....

*Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: "Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? And as if this were not enough in your sight, O Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant. Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD? What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Sovereign LORD. For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.*

*How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? You have*

*established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, O LORD, have become their God.*

*And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, **so that your name will be great forever.** Then men will say, 'The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!' And the house of your servant David will be established before you.*

*O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, 'I will build a house for you.' So your servant has found courage to offer you this prayer. O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever."*

## **Your Name**

Prayer is a refuge, a place of safety, where perspective is gained, and fears calmed. Listen to Psalm 27.....

*The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.*

*One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.*

*Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior. Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me. Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.*

*I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.*

## **Everlasting God**

Assyria, the "Third Reich" of its day, was threatening to come against Israel. There was plenty of reason to be afraid, but King Hezekiah already knew through a word from Isaiah that Assyria's days were numbered. So when he got a written letter meant to intimidate, this is what he did. What else? He prayed. Listen to 2 Kings 19:14-19....

*Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: "O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God. It is true, O LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by men's hands. Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God."*

Is God a prayer-hearing God. That very night the angel of the Lord was dispatched and put to death 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian camp. Let's hear God's voice through the next hymn, and let it speak directly to our situation right now. Right now, let's lift up prayers of thanks for specific times that God has answered our prayers.

**Congregational thanks for answered prayer**

## **How Firm A Foundation**

### **OFFERING**

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign

Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: " 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

**Acts 4:23-31**

## **Shake This Place**

### **SERMON**

## **Be Thou My Vision**

(A Prayer for the ultimate will of God in our lives)

### **Benediction**

May you now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the Spirit of Prayer. May it become, in the name of Jesus Christ, the most precious occupation of your life. And may the God of all peace strengthen you, bless you, and give you joy.

**Richard Foster**