7 DAYS OF PRAYER

May 30 - June 5, 2022

PRAYER FOCUS:

To Have a Greater Vision, Passion, and Compassion for the Broken and Lost people in our Families, Community, and World.

Jesus said that he had come into the world to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He passed that on to us as His Church in what is called the Great Commission. In Matthew 28:18-20, "Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe (obey) all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Over the last couple of years a lot has changed here in this country and around the world. But some things have not. One of those things is the fact that people are far from God and desperately need to hear the gospel. This is the mission of the church thus it is the mission of everyone of us who are followers of Christ.

I tell you the truth, we don't need new methods, new programs, or new strategies. It doesn't matter how many buildings we construct, churches we plant, sermons we preach if we are not intent on doing everything so that lost men, women, and children will experience the transforming work of God in Christ. Without that one thing, we fail.

We must return to the mission that Jesus gave us. That is why this week of prayer, I am asking you to join me in praying for a greater vision, passion and compassion to reach the lost, broken, and unreached people around us and in our world.

The greatest need in New Hope Church is for a white-hot passion to see people who are far from God experience the new life He offers through Jesus Christ.

I think that can start in my heart and in your heart only by bended knee. Bended knees produce broken hearts for broken souls.

A.B. Simpson was a Canadian preacher, theologian, author and founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, an evangelical denomination with an emphasis on global evangelism. A.B. Simpson had a heart that burned to share the gospel with the world.

It is said that a fellow minister was looking for him at a meeting one morning and he found him in the library standing with both hands on a globe of the world, weeping and crying out to God to call men and women to go into all the world to share the gospel so the lost could be saved.

Dr. Billy Graham was asked one time about what could churches do to reach the lost. He responded, "There are three things that you can do. They are #1. Pray. #2. Pray. And #3. Pray.

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matt. 9:35-38)

Lets do exactly that, will you join me in praying for laborers and for the lost and broken souls of men, women, and children.

Let's Tell Them About Jesus!

Pastor Lyn

DAY 1 - Monday Let Your Light Shine

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

As Christians we are the light of the world, and one way we let our light shine is through our good works. Our good works are not done to save us, but we do good works because we are saved.

Our good works toward others are not only a way for us to display the love of Christ, but it is also an evangelistic opportunity in and of itself.

Those who do not know Jesus are watching us, and when they see our good deeds – Which aren't motivated out of our trying to be loved by God, but instead are an overflow of the love we have received from God – there is an opportunity for them to glorify our Father in heaven.

As you go about your day, don't neglect the evangelistic impact that a kind word and good deed for someone who is lost may have.

Think about someone you know that needs Jesus. Think about one kind thing that you could do to serve them, and do it.

WHAT IS THE HOL	Y SPIRIT SAYING TO MY HEART?
PRAYER NOTES:	

DAY 2 - TUESDAY An Eternal Perspective - Part 1

In Luke 12:35-48 Jesus is helping his disciples to understand that in order to live our lives well in the present, we must look clearly toward the future.

The second coming of Christ is the most talked about doctrine of the Bible. New Testament writers use the second coming to motivate obedience to almost every moral command found there – in other words, you gain the strength to obey God's commands by reflecting on how close eternity is.

If you want to live your life in a state of readiness so that you are faithful, then there are three characteristics you should take on.

I. Be Awake to Your Task (Luke 12:37)

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes...

Or Blessed are those who are active to the task Jesus left to us: the Great Commission. Our mission is to make disciples from every nation. That is what the Great Commission says for us to do. Are we doing that?

The Greek word for "nations" in Matthew 28:19, is referring to the different ethnic and language groups in the world, of which there are still 7,413 unreached groups today. They represent 3.23 billion people, 1.7 billion of whom have never heard the name of Jesus.

The task is not finished until the gospel has been proclaimed among everyone of them. It is what God is doing on earth right now and what he wants us to be doing as well.

So, it is a good question to consider, are we awake and active in the task the Jesus has given to us to accomplish.

I saw a new term today on a blog I was reading. It said that the church in today's culture is not threatened by Atheism but Apathytheism. New word, new term. This writer and theologian said that the greatest threat to the American Church was the apathy of God's people.

The Master is coming for his church, we must be awake and active when he comes.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO MY HEART?

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PRAYER NOTES:			

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY An Eternal Perspective - Part 2

The Second thing we see about living in a state of readiness is:

2. Be Confident of Jesus' Return (Luke 12:40)

The servants who got in trouble in this parable were those who were either unsure of Jesus' return or just forgot about it. When we are sure Jesus is coming back, we look at everything differently, including the way we view sacrifice. We can endure sacrifices on earth because life is temporary and eternity is forever.

Adoniram Judson was a great missionary used of God in Asia. As he was preparing to leave he wanted to marry a girl named Ann Hasseltine and so he wrote this letter to her father.

"I have now to ask whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world? Whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death? Can you consent to all this, for the sake of him who left his heavenly home and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing, immortal souls; for the sake of the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with a crown of righteousness brightened by the acclamations of praise which shall resound to her Savior from the lost who were saved through her means from eternal woe and despair? (adapted from Edward Judson's *The Life of Adoniram Judson, 20*)

John Hasseltine said yes, and Ann and Adoniram got married and went as America's first missionaries to Asia, where every one of those terrible things Adoniram predicted happened – and many more came true.

How could Adoniram and Ann and their parents endure these things? Because they believed time was short, eternity was real, and the Master was coming back soon.

Live in a way that only makes sense if Jesus is coming back soon.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO MY HEART?		
RAYER NOTES:	:	

DAY 4 - THURSDAY

An Eternal Perspective – Part 3

The third characteristic of a ready life is....

3. Be Faithful to Your Charge (Luke 12:45-47)

Most sobering in this parable to me is how Jesus describes the fate of those who neglect their Master's return. Though they aren't overtly evil people – just people who got distracted and failed to actively pursue their task – they are given severe punishment and assigned a place with the unfaithful.

In the United States, we live in a land of abundance, and that is God's gift to us. But it is easy to become so content with the benefits and pleasures that come from wealth that we forget why God gave that wealth to us.

To be a good steward starts with our lives and everything that our lives are about. C.S. Lewis said, "Wealth has a way of knitting a man's heart to this world."

We forget that God gave us what he gave us for eternal investment, not for temporary pleasure.

Faithful disciples ask themselves why Jesus gave them what he gave them and whether or not they are faithfully investing it. This is talking about our lives and the things that make that up, such as time, possessions, money, pleasure, and career. Faithful followers of Christ are not distracted by the treasures of this world but focused instead on an eternal inheritance.

What are you doing with your life?
Are you wasting it, or are you fulfilling your purpose?

Blessed are those who are awake and active in it when the Master comes! Are You Ready?

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO MY HEART?		
PRAYER NOTES:		

DAY 5 – FRIDAY Sharing the Blessing

Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:19, 22-23

Paul was so devoted to winning people to Christ that he willingly brought himself low – to the point of referring to himself as a servant – in hopes that God may save some.

He did whatever he had to do to remove barriers that may have prevented people from believing and trusting in Christ by wholly giving of himself to the needs and service of others. He did whatever it took to reach all people for Jesus.

It is paradoxical that Paul sees the giving of himself as "sharing in the blessings." Do we share with others the blessings of the gospel. While our sin nature tells us that its all about us or to hoard our time, talent, treasures and even the good news for our own joy and blessing, there is a great benefit for both the hearer and the proclaimer of the gospel.

May we do whatever it will takes and be filled with a passion to share the blessing of the gospel with others so that like Paul we can become all things to all people in order to save some.

AYER NOTES:			

DAY 6 – SATURDAY Keys to Effectively Reaching People for Jesus

- **#1 Be Prayerful.** Prayer is absolutely necessary as you move in mission. Daily surrender happens in prayer. As I said earlier in the week, Bended knees produce broken hearts for broken souls.
- **#2 Be Positive.** You should share Jesus in a positive manner. Never use His Name to win an argument or to put down people.
- **#3 Be Accepting.** Accepting people is not the same as condoning their sinful behavior. Jesus loved people as they were, always leading them to become what He knew they could be through Him.
- #4 Be Consistent. Pray every day that God will help you to touch someone with the good news of Jesus Christ. In other words, live every day with the intention to do something eternal. Seek to establish habits that will yield a life that bears spiritual fruit.
- **#5 Be Intentional.** There is a saying that goes like this, that which we intentionally ignore will unintentionally not get done. While authentic sharing of the gospel is always dependent upon the Holy Spirit, sharing our faith does not happen by accident. It must be an intentional and conscious commitment of every Christian.
- #6 Be Creative. Think of ways that you can serve others and share with others. Be open to new things and new ways of doing things.
- **#7 Be Active.** The law of the harvest is simple. Sow little, reap little, so much reap much. Maybe better said, the more that you spread the gospel seed, the greater likelihood that people will respond. Psalm 126 is true, "Sow in tears....reap in joy" (5)

Jesus said, Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" (John 4:35)

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DAY 7 – SUNDAY TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

And he said to all, if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (Luke 9:23)

Jesus isn't after passive surrender. The cross was his instrument of world salvation, so to take it up means actively devoting your life to his mission. So many Christians believe you must simply obey the 10 commandments and then go on with life as usual, unless of course God appears to you in a burning bush. But following Jesus means accepting his mission as your own and pursuing it wholeheartedly.

People talk about wanting to "find God's will." It is not lost; it is right there in the Bible: "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9) God wants to use us to bring them to repentance.

Do you know what God's Word says about the lost?

....when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire....inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.... (2 Thess. 1:7-9)

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15)

Chilling descriptions! We cannot say we believe the gospel and then do nothing about our neighbors who do not have a relationship with Jesus or nations who have not heard.

All of us, regardless of our role in the body of Christ, have one things in common: it is our responsibility to tell the people in our lives about Jesus. May we pray together that I will be so!!

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