

## **TEMPORARY RESIDENTS**

Good morning and welcome back to the first 15. We are so thankful that you would take time out of the beginning part of your day and that you would just spend it with Jesus. It is our hope that this time would stir your heart and your affections for him and that it would draw your focus in to what he wants for you to do today.

Last time we went through 1 Peter and got about half-way through Chapter 1. Today we are going to continue to pray through the remainder of the verses in this scripture. Praying through the scriptures is one of many ways to approach our morning prayers. It is something that anybody can do anywhere. You don't need a bible study or an app to even do that, although those things are great. You can just open up the scriptures and pray through what you're reading.

As Peter calls us to holy living, in verse 13 he says this:

1 Peter 1:13 So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

What a great way to start off this time: by taking a moment to pause and prepare our minds for action today; you and I have the ability to do that. God has given us this space that we can make the decisions on what we are thinking and what we are going to be doing. So, for us to be conscious of that in this moment, we are going to open this time with a moment of prayer and pray through that. Just lay aside the things that might be distracting you and we are going to put our heart and focus on what Jesus wants for us in this moment and for this day.

*Jesus today we put our hope in your grace and the incredible gift of salvation given to us through your death on the cross. We stand firm in the truth that your victory on that day has allowed us to experience personal victory today. Give us strength to embrace today with action for the glory of your name.*

In verse 14 Peter continues:

1 Peter 1:14-16 So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

In our pursuit of living a holy life for Jesus, it is easy to get caught up in our old life without Jesus. There was a time that we just simply didn't know any better. There were certain things that we did, certain things we said but now, because we have new life in Christ, we know better. So, there is a way that we should live because of the change that has happened in us. Peter is saying is that the ability for us to be holy has nothing to do with us, which we should be thankful for because we mess up sometimes, sometimes a lot! We are reminded in those times that our ability to be holy is because of the holiness that is inside of us. We can be holy not because of us but because of Jesus. He chose us and He lives in us and because He is holy, we are holy.

Take a moment and reflect on that truth. Think about some of the things from your past that you are still struggling with, even though you know better. This is a great time to write those things down and then

just lay them at the feet of Jesus and just call that stuff out in your life. Literally, look at that list and say, “You know what, I know that these things aren’t for me anymore; the way that I’m thinking, the way that I’m talking, the things that I’m doing. This is not reflective of my new life. That is my old life.” Now is a good time to take a stand against it. Maybe one of the ways you do that is to pray this prayer:

*Jesus today I lay down anything that is not a reflection of you. Today I proclaim to all principalities that would remind me of my past that they would be reminded of the empty tomb. On that day Jesus you defeated the death, hell, and sin in me. Help me to walk in the newness of life in you. Help me to fully accept the call to holiness you have placed within my heart. Let me be encouraged by the truth that we are holy because you are holy.*

Then in verse 17 Peter goes on to say:

1 Peter 1:17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So, you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “temporary residents.”

*“Temporary Residents”* – We should take comfort in that thought. Today, be reminded that what is happening in your life right now is *temporary*. There are situations that you are going through right now in your life, some good and some bad, and Peter is telling us they are *temporary*. As we go through our lives, we are either in a storm, coming out of a storm, or getting ready to go into a storm. Regardless, this is what we know: the storms in your life are temporary; the things that you are going through are *temporary*. So, if you are struggling through a season right now that is difficult, take encouragement that it’s *temporary*. This is the time you want to press into Jesus, because you are going to get through this. If you are going through a season right now that is great, you can’t be assured that tomorrow is going to be a bad day, but we just know that in life things happen. So, we should cling to Jesus because we don’t know when the good day today becomes the bad day tomorrow. But here’s what we know - it’s *temporary*. But *temporary* is not just the situations that we are going through. *Temporary* is also this actual existence that we are living in. This body that we are inhabiting right now, one day we know this, that we are going to breathe our last breath and we are going to step into eternity. The deeper things that you are going through right now, the things that are not situational, but the things that are rooted in your heart, rooted in your mind, take encouragement today that they are *temporary*. This isn’t our home; this isn’t our permanent situation. Because of who Jesus is and what he did for us, we have great hope despite the *temporary* things that are happening inside of us.

Take a moment and call out those things in your life that are really weighing you down. Take a minute, and just pretend like you are holding them in your hand. Imagine looking at those situations and say to yourself, “This thing right now in my life, this is *temporary*. It’s not going to last forever. It’s not going to always be with me. But the God that’s in my heart, he is forever. He is everlasting. And no matter what this is, it’s never going to change who He is”. Maybe for you, to help you walk through that, pray this prayer:

*Jesus, today I praise you that this place is not my home and these things that I may cling to are not of any worth in eternity. Today, bring about a holy reverence to the calling you have placed on my life. Help me to live for you in light of eternity and not for myself in light of today.*

Now to verse 18:

1 Peter 1:18-20 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days He has been revealed for your sake.

Oh, that we would never forget this truth ; the good news that Jesus gave his life as a ransom to save us. That we were empty and lost before Christ and because of the ransom God paid in the form of Jesus we are made whole. How incredible to know that before the world began God chose you. That means there is nothing that we could ever do to catch God off guard. Every sin we have ever committed and will ever commit was covered.

We have to be really careful because there are these deep, rich truths of the gospel that we have heard so many times that, to be honest, they can become “white noise”. When we sing about the cross and sing about the salvation that we have through Jesus, we have to be careful it doesn’t become just another song or just another thought. It is *not* just another song, and it is *not* just another thought. The God of the universe, Jesus, gave His *life* to save our souls. So today we are encouraged, not just that something very valuable is in the life of Jesus that was paid for us, but that because of that our lives have value.

It’s amazing how we will attribute the value we have for other people based upon the value we have for ourselves. It’s one of the reasons we struggle so much in relationships. The reason why we struggle to show people love and the reason why we struggle to express value and honor to other people is because we don’t value and honor ourselves. You can live holy because you have value. You are important. You have value because *Jesus gave his life for you*.

Take a moment now and think about that. Think about the fact that *Jesus gave his life for you*. What does that mean to you? What are the emotions that come from that reality? Regardless of whether you embrace that truth and are thankful or whether you struggle to embrace it because you feel shameful, it doesn’t change the fact that he did it. You don’t have to be okay with that for that to make sense or be true. It’s just true. Jesus gave his life for you, regardless of how you feel about Him or how you feel about yourself. It’s appropriate in this moment that we just pray and reflect on that.

*Jesus, I can’t begin to thank you enough for the ransom that was paid with your life. I can’t even begin to fathom why you would choose to save me before the foundation of this earth was ever laid. Today help me to move away from feeling sorry for myself when I fail and step into being grateful for the life I get to live. Allow that grateful heart to empower me to bring others to you.*

Now we close out this part of the scripture with these words:

1 Peter 1:21-23 Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

There are several ways to pursue and live a life that is holy and pleasing to God and that would honor God. The absolute fastest way to do it is to love other people. This is the core of who we are as Christians. We love because He first loved us.

Where are you with this today. What is your capacity to love other people? We have to be careful in thinking that our ability to love others well comes from our strength and our focus and our determination. It has nothing to do with that. Our ability to love people properly in a way that creates life change, all of that comes from what Jesus did for us. The scriptures are so bold when they get in our face and they say if you are not the kind of person that loves people sacrificially the way that Jesus loved people, there's a chance that there are some issues with your relationship with Jesus and one of those issues might be the fact that you don't have a relationship at all. We love because He first loved us. Peter says to live a holy life we should love deeply. We should sacrificially love; it should cost us something to love others.

Take a moment and think about some people in your life that maybe you haven't been loving well. Maybe this is a good chance to hit the reset button and to change that, to pick up the phone and make a call or send out a text to let them know that you are sorry for how you have been acting and sorry for how you have been approaching them in your relationship. What can you do to make this better? What can you do to love more through this? Regardless of what the reaction is from the other end, understand this truth; that your ability to do that well does not come from you but comes from the one who loved you first and who gave his life for you and lives in you. This prayer might help you in this process:

*Jesus help me today to love in a way that draws others to you. You say that others will know you because of our love. Today I ask you to help me to lay down anything that would prevent me from loving like this. I don't want to get in the way of what you're doing in the lives of those who don't know you. Your story, Jesus, is the greatest ever told. Help me today to share that story through love.*

Praying through scripture is something that is easy and that you can do from home. Grab a part of scripture as you are reading through it and if you see something that sticks out, journal about it. Put down your thoughts and what the Holy Spirit is stirring up inside of you and then actually pray through those verses.

A praying church is a powerful church. God has called us to do incredible, great things and it all starts with this; getting our day aligned with Jesus, the Savior of this world. We are in this together and the God of the universe is in this with us.

## **JESUS IS SELFLESS**

Start off this new day right, engaging in a conversation with God.

### **PRAISE HIM**

This morning, look at Romans chapter 15 to guide your time...

Romans 15:1-3 (NIV) We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on Me."

Christ did not seek to please himself... Jesus didn't please himself. He took our insults on himself. He didn't use his strength to do what served himself – He did His Father's will and used His strength to serve others.

Mark 10:45 Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Jesus gave his life for others. Jesus is *selfless*.

*Jesus, we praise you because you are selfless.*

Tell Him what that means to you this morning that he is *selfless* and he gave his life as a ransom for you.

### **CONFESS AND REPENT**

Re-read those first two verses in Romans chapter 15 again...

Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

We are to bear with the failings of the weak. We are to seek the best interest of others before ourselves. Honestly, sometimes we use our strength to do just that and then sometimes, we may not. Sometimes we use our strength to serve ourselves.

Take a moment right now and repent of that. Be honest and confess that to the Lord. Ask for His forgiveness and his help to live differently.

*God, you have given us a measure of strength. We have not used it fully as we ought. Forgive us for seeking to please only ourselves. We have sought to build ourselves up even at the expense of others sometimes. Forgive us for lacking the heart of a servant. Please make our hearts like yours today and help us to use our strength to serve. Thank you, Lord. Amen.*

## **REQUESTS**

We want to be part of the good that God desires to bring into the lives of those around us. Ask him to do just that today and to use you to that end.

*God, I want to see good come into the lives of the people around me.*

Specifically, list three people now that come to your mind and ask God to bring good into their lives today.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

## **GIVE THANKS**

Romans 15:3 (NIV) For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on Me."

Jesus bore our weaknesses. Jesus took upon himself our insults. He went to the cross in our place to die the death that you and I should have died on the cross that we might live. We deserved the cross. He took it for us. Oh, how we need to stop and say thank you! Let's do that now...

*Thank you for bearing with my weaknesses. Thank you for taking my sin on the cross. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for raising me to new life. Thank you that I am yours forever.*

What else would you like to thank Him for this morning? Take a moment now to do that...

## **YIELD**

Jesus gave himself for us. How could we give Him anything less than all that we are in joyful surrender to Jesus? Tell him your heart and ask Him to use you for His glory and His sake today.

*Thank you for laying down your life for me. Today, I want to lay down my life for you. I want to serve you. I want to live for you. Take my life and use it however you want today. I am yours. Be glorified in me today. Amen.*

As you head into the rest of your day, you leave this moment but don't leave your conversation with Christ. Continue to talk to Him, to praise Him, to thank Him, to admit and confess to Him, and to return your heart to Him over and over again today as He brings different things to your mind. Remember that He is absolutely loving spending time with you today.

## **THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION**

### **PRAISE HIM**

Ephesians 1:17-19 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

This is a prayer that Paul is praying in Ephesians and it can guide you in this time of prayer. He's asking for some great things that we can ask for and he's talking to God about some things that we should talk to God about.

We see in this prayer that Paul begins how we often begin with a word of praise recognizing who God is and acknowledging who we are talking to. The person that he is talking to is the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, "The glorious Father" the one who is above all. Paul identifies Him as Father. To be counted as one of God's children is an amazing privilege. God is our good Father, the perfect Father. And He does what good dads do.

And what do good dads do? They lead, they protect, they encourage, they correct, they love, and they build up their children. Those are all things that God does in the lives of his children. Today, begin with a prayer of praise that God is a great father to us.

*Father, you are a good father. You lead me well, you protect me, you correct me, you guide my life, you take me to the places I need to go and you rescue me from the pits I find myself in. Thank you for loving me like a father loves his children. Thank you for adopting me and calling me yours. I praise you for being my father today.*

### **REQUESTS**

Paul then goes on to pray and ask for some very specific things, some very good things. Next in the text he is going to ask that God grant us a **spirit of wisdom** and that we would live wisely. That we would have this spirit of wisdom that would be at work in us so that we would always in every decision we make, and in the choices that we make and in the things that we say and do, that we would consider God. That we would think about him and that would guide our choices and our decision making and guide our lives.

He also says in that same breath that we would have **revelation** to know Him better. Of course, this revelation that He is talking about is that we have the Bible, so we get to study and read God's word and we get to see who He is and who we are to be. By leaning into God's word, by studying it regularly, God reveals Himself to us through that and we get to know Him better.

Pray that God would give you a spirit of wisdom and that you would live wisely in the things that you do today, that you would be guided by remembering that God is present and that you want to consider Him and what He wants for your life in all that you do.

Pray that as you read the scripture today that God would reveal himself to you and that you will know him better through his word. You can pray for yourself and for some other Christian believers you know. It is a great thing to pray into someone's life. If you have people that you care about and you are just praying that God would help them with the spirit of wisdom today or that they would be able to read God's word and see him more fully and worship him more fully, that's a great thing to pray for somebody.

*Lord, I so want to live under your leadership. Please show me your wisdom. Give me the blessing of the Holy Spirit to lead me to live according to your wisdom. For those who are reading this prayer guide, I pray that you would give them your Holy Spirit and direct them in wisdom today as well.*

*Father, you have given us your Bible, please help me to know you better through it. You have shown me who you are, how you care for me, and how I can follow you. Today Lord, help me to know you better through it. Help everyone reading this prayer guide to know you better through your word today.*

In the scripture from Ephesians, Paul then asks for God to open our "**spiritual eyes**" that we might see more fully the riches we have in Christ; the inheritance that is set before us, that we would see the blessings that God has provided for us, that we would see the majesty of His greatness, that we would understand fully the gift of salvation that He has given us. And in doing so, our desire for Him would grow; our desire to follow Him would grow. When this happens, our joy will begin to grow.

*Father you have prepared a future for me that I cannot fully understand but I know it is going to be great. Help me to keep my focus on you by reminding me today of your blessings and of your promises. Open the spiritual eyes of all those reading this today, that they would begin to see your blessings at every turn today.*

## **YIELD**

Paul then goes on to talk about this power that we have by the Holy Spirit that is inside of us and that it is, in fact, the same power that God used to raise Jesus from the grave on Easter. As amazing as that was, that power is inside of and available to all those who believe through the Holy Spirit. This is an encouragement. It means I don't have to try and face this world with only my own power but with the power of the Holy Spirit living in me. What we have to do then is surrender our life to the will of God, we have to bend to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and when the Holy Spirit leads us to do things we should do it.

This morning, pray and surrender to God's will and live fully in His power; that you would live fully in the power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

*Father, I need your power to face today. I don't know everything that is coming my way today, but you do. You have given me everything I need, thank you for the Holy Spirit. Today I will follow His leading. – Amen*

Now with the time that you have left this morning, it is a good time to pick up on some other aspects and elements of prayer that you didn't spend any time with today, like asking and making requests. Maybe there are physical needs that people have that need to be met or that you have that you want to talk to God about. We didn't spend a whole lot of time in repentance today. Maybe there are some things God



is dealing with you on and you want to spend some time talking to Him about that. Or one aspect of prayer that we don't spend too much time in is just sitting in silence and listening and just try to be in the presence of God. Maybe take this verse and just read it again and just meditate on scripture and just be in God's presence and enjoy Him for a few minutes.

## **GOD SEES EVERYTHING**

### **PRAISE HIM**

Psalm 33:13-14 From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind, from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth.

God sees everyone. He sees you when you are laughing, when you are celebrating, when you are happy, he sees when you are sad and when you are hurt. He sees when you are confused and more than that, he actually *cares*. He keeps watch over you. There is comfort in worshipping a God who sees everything. Nothing escapes him. He knows it all and understands you.

Take a moment and praise him for that.

*Lord, thank you for watching over me today. Thank you for seeing me and for paying attention to all my needs. You are great and worthy of all my praise.*

### **CONFESS AND REPENT**

God wants to have a meaningful and honest relationship with you. He already knows you. He keeps watch over you, but he also wants to hear from you. You can even tell him about the things that you are ashamed of because he will forgive you if you ask.

Joel 2:12-13 Even now – this is the Lord’s declaration – turn to me with all your heart with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the Lord your God. For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and He relents from sending disaster.

Today, what do you need to tell God about? Is there sin you need to confess? Do you need to change your thoughts or feelings about a specific area of your life? Repentance is a gift from God that he gives us to make us more in the image of his son, Jesus. We should take advantage of this.

*Lord, your word says that you want me to turn to you when I mess up. I ask you to forgive me today. I repent of: \_\_\_\_\_.*

Fill in the blank here with whatever God is showing you today that you need to repent of.

### **REQUESTS**

We serve a God who *sees and knows everything*. Including the things that make us nervous or worried.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Are you worried about something today? Are you feeling anxious about anything? You can trust God with all of these things. Because he sees everything, he knows it is all going to work out. So, trust him and talk to him.

*Lord, you know how everything is going to work out. Today I am anxious about \_\_\_\_\_ . I trust you with this. Grant me your peace today as I wait.*

**YIELD**

As you conclude today, consider this verse from Psalm 118:

Psalm 118:24 This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Today is God's day because all the days are His. We can rejoice and be glad because He knows everything. And He is attentive to us. In light of this truth, give this day back to God.

*Father today is a day that you have made. Thank you for it. I rejoice today because you are so worthy of my praise. Thank you for today. I give it back to you. Do with it as you please. Amen.*

## **GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING**

### **PRAISE**

1 John 3:19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything.

*God knows everything.* Think about that; there is nothing that escapes Him. He knows the way, He knows the way back, and He knows you.

When I was a kid, I once got lost in a hardware store. Still, one of the top five scariest moments of my life. Because here I am, this little kid in this big store, and I don't know the way back to back to my parents. I don't know where I am, I don't know where to go and I don't know what to do. And maybe that is the way you have felt in your life, maybe not being physically lost but emotionally or spiritually. Maybe you have just felt lost and you don't know what to do, you don't really know where you are, and you can't find your bearings and you don't know what to do next. Listen, our God knows absolutely everything. There is nothing that he does not know. I find great comfort in this.

Praise him this morning that he *knows everything*.

*God, you know everything about everything, and you know everything about me. I praise you for knowing the way. I praise you and I can trust you because you know it all.*

### **CONFESS AND REPENT**

In Proverbs 14:12 we read a verse that is interesting in contrast to the 1 John passage:

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that appears to be right but, in the end, it leads to death.

We serve a God who knows absolutely everything. But often we live as if we are the ones that know everything. We sometimes live as though we're the ones with all the answers and we know all the directions and think our way is better than His way. We think our thoughts are stronger than His thoughts or wiser than His thoughts. And that is just not true and when we live that way, we sin, and we mess up. It's troubling because we tend to get ourselves into some trouble, so there are typically things that need to be cleaned up and apologies that have to be made because we chose to do it our way with the limited amount of things we know instead of doing it God's way, who knows everything.

Take a minute and repent and tell God that you know that His way is the right way and you trust Him and to forgive you when you mess up.

*Father I am quick to forget how great you are. I lose sight of all that you know. Forgive me when I have done things my own way. Forgive me when I think I know better than you. Thank you for always leading me with your knowledge.*

## **REQUESTS**

One of the great things about God knowing everything is that He knows exactly what we need when we need it and He knows exactly what to do and when to do it. This means that we can trust Him wholeheartedly with everything in our lives, with anything that challenges us or anything that we are facing, anything that we are unsure about, we can go to Him with requests for His help and for His peace and for His guidance and will trust not only that He will give us His peace and His guidance but that He's going to work in the world and around us and in us and through us for what is best because He sees all of the pieces and He knows everything. His way is always going to be the best way. Sometimes when we come to a time of making requests and come to a time of asking of God, we do ask specific things and we should ask Him for what we feel like we need and what we even want to see happen. But we always want to walk away from a time of requesting and asking knowing that God knows best and that what we're really asking or really praying for is assurance and certainty that what He's doing is the best thing. And we can have that. So today whatever you are facing, whatever your current struggle is, whatever your current trials are, whatever your current challenges are, maybe there's something going on in your life or in the life of a coworker, a friend, or a family member and you're not sure of what to do and you're challenged by it, go to God with it. Do that and not only trust Him not just to hear our prayers because He hears our prayers, but let's trust Him to do what is absolutely best.

*God, I trust you. Because you know everything, you know what to do in any situation. Please do what is best. Please help me to trust you in the meantime.*

Take a few minutes and talk to God specifically about those things. Maybe mention those people by name, maybe get into some of the details and the circumstances surrounding those requests. God wants to hear from you and He knows everything already but He wants to communicate with us and he wants us to depend on Him. Asking and praying requests reminds us of our dependence on Him. It gives us an opportunity to remember that we can trust him.

## **YIELD**

As you close your time of guided prayer today, if God knows everything, then He knows today. He knows all of the challenges that today holds, He knows all of the things that are going to come up today, He even knows all of the celebrations and the things that are going to make us laugh and the happy things. He knows what today's purpose is and what today's plan is. So why should we ever try to do this on our own? Why should we ever try to do today or any day on our own? Go to God and yield today to Him; surrender back to Him the day that He has given us.

*Father, I surrender this day to you. You know the way and you know what is best. Lead me today, and I will follow. Amen.*