

JESUS IS OUR CORNERSTONE

It is our hope that this time would stir your heart and affections for Jesus and that this time would really start your day off right.

Today we are going to continue praying through 1 Peter. This is a really great way to pray – to read scripture and then to pray, focusing on what the scripture teaches us. Sometimes we have a season where we struggle with what to say when we pray, so when we can allow scripture to speak for us, that not only helps us in our time with God, but it helps to realign our heart to the things that are important, because a lot of times if we just go in without a game plan we're sometimes just always going to the same things. It's good to stretch our faith and good to be praying and thinking through different things.

1 Peter 2:1-3 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

Today we are going to start off with this question: What are you craving right now in your life? You will come up with different answers depending on what you are going through right now in your life. But the truth is still the same; whatever you crave is really what you are going to chase after. We have a saying with our students: whatever has your heart, has your life. And so, in this moment, Peter is talking about cravings. He starts the verse by saying 'get rid of the evil behavior'. There are things in your life that are bad for you and obviously we know this because we talk about this through scripture all the time, but in order to combat that, the best way to combat negative behavior is with positive behavior. The best way to combat negative thoughts is with positive thoughts. There is nothing more positive than to align your life in a way to where what you crave is Jesus. You need to ask yourself that question; what are you craving right now in your life? Jesus is probably the answer we're going to get. If you're in a room full of people and you ask, "Hey, who wants more Jesus?", everybody's going to raise their hand. But the real issue is, does your life reflect what you desire? There are the things that we say with our lips but then there are the things we do with our life. Unfortunately, you can say things and they can sound really professional and really well thought out, but what you say doesn't really mean anything; what matters is actually what you do with your life. Peter is just laying it down; we need to crave Jesus. There was a time when you were a baby and then you grow up and you stop drinking milk and you start eating solid foods. It's the same way in our faith. As you grow in your faith the expectation is you get deeper in your faith so that you're pursuing deeper things and your meditating on deeper things and your life is a reflection of deeper things. So as you get started this morning, take a moment to think about what you are craving right now in your life and think about where your life is going and the evidence of what those things are. It is our hope as you start this First Fifteen, that your heart will crave Jesus and that your life will pursue Jesus. First, pray about this:

Jesus, today I want to take the step and grow deeper in my relationship with you. Help me in this moment to identify the negative things that would hold me back and give me strength to let them go. In this moment help me to recognize that my number one desire should be you and you alone.

Peter continues in verse 4 when he says:

1 Peter 2:4-5 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but He was chosen by God for great honor. And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What's more, you are His holy priests.

Keeping in the theme of building your life, what you crave is what your heart desires for your life. We are all building something with our lives. Peter really makes this point very clear when he talks about this thing that God is building, this incredible, beautiful thing called the gospel, and at the very foundation of this is the cornerstone. A cornerstone is at the foundations of everything that is built upon it. The cornerstone is pivotal to holding the entire structure up. Jesus is the cornerstone on which the whole gospel is built. But then Peter says not only is Jesus the cornerstone but because of that we should build our lives on Jesus. Peter is saying if Jesus is the cornerstone of all things, he should be the cornerstone of all your things. That's the craving that he was talking about in the first couple of verses. But it's not just because he's the cornerstone, scripture says that we are also living stones, a part of what he is building. We are a part of the structure, which in and of itself is absolutely incredible, but it also adds extra importance to the things that we crave, because what has our heart has our life. If we're not craving Jesus but yet we're claiming Jesus, there's going to be some friction in our life when God calls us to be a part of this thing that he is building - and our life is not a reflection of that. Take a moment and think about what you want to build your life on? What *are* you building your life on and what *do you want* to build your life on? Clearly God has a plan that he has been in the process of implementing since the beginning of time, this saving the world to himself gospel message. He is asking us to be a part of His plan. But are we setting ourselves up to be a part of it? As you are thinking through that, here's a prayer you can pray:

Jesus today I acknowledge that everything is founded by you and on you. In this moment, search my heart and reveal what I am building my life upon. If it is not you, Jesus, help me to cast those things aside so that my life is a reflection of you. As you are building me up, use my life to lift you up.

In verse 9 and Peter says:

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

In these verses Peter is talking about the whole reason why this is so important; why it's important to crave Jesus and why it's important to build your life on the cornerstone of who He is. You talk about a verse that can pray itself, that is this verse. If we just look at these great truths that we can reflect on, that we are chosen, that we are a part of this royal priesthood; that we are God's very own. Just saying these things gives us encouragement to think through them, and that gives us encouragement. It says that we can show others God's goodness because of the things that are inside of us and that God has called us out of darkness and into light. Maybe that's where you are at today. Maybe you are going through some darkness right now. God has called you out of that darkness; you don't have to be there anymore. Through His power working in our lives, we can step out of that darkness and into the marvelous, wonderful light that is Jesus Christ.

Take a moment now and reflect on what maybe sticks out to you the most in this passage. Pause and take one or two things and spend some time giving God praise for all of these things. Once you've done that, pray this prayer:

Jesus thank you for choosing me. Help me to know that there is nothing I am going through that has a grip on me when I am in your hands. Today help me to experience your goodness and your mercy. Today, I praise you for bringing me out of darkness and into light.

Finally, Peter is going to wrap up this part of the letter by saying this in verse 11:

1 Peter 2:11 Dear friends, I warn you as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.
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Here Peter uses that word “temporary” again. He used it in Chapter 1 and he’s using it again here in Chapter 2. He’s saying that because this is a broken earth that we are living live in, and it is very much broken, we are not permanent residents here. This is a temporary thing, and here Peter comes full circle. Remember at the beginning he talks about staying away from evil behavior, and about fighting negative behavior by embracing positive behavior. The way to fight sin, that which seeks to destroy our soul, is to embrace Jesus. We need to crave Jesus and that we would be growing deeper in our faith, and our life should be evidence of that. We should be building our lives on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ and the gospel of Jesus Christ and, as a part of that, our life should reflect that gospel. We should embrace these truths; that we are God’s chosen people, we are a royal priesthood, and our lives should reflect that. Not just our words, but our actions should reflect that is exactly who we are, so we can give goodness to people, that we can give grace, that we can give mercy, and we can walk out of the darkness and into the light.

As we wrap up today, take a moment and reflect on where you are at right now in this season of your life. Regardless of whether you are happy or unhappy with where you are, the good news is that you can always change, you can always grow, and you can always get better. Where do you want to be tomorrow? Where do you want to be a week, a month, or even a year from now? We should set in our heart to be growing closer and deeper in our faith with Jesus. By the time one vacation is over, we are usually already thinking about the vacation for the next year. Maybe we should do that in our faith as well, to say next time what do I want that to look like? The way we do that is by craving Jesus, building our life upon who He is, recognizing the truth of who we are in him. We should take seriously the evil and sin in this world that are waging a war against our souls. Trust in the hands of Jesus. Close out with this final prayer:

Jesus, today I ask that you protect my heart and my mind. I recognize that I live in a world that is broken and there are things that seek to destroy me. Help me today to stand in your victory and trust in the process you are walking me through. Amen.

Live today in light of the fact that Jesus loves you, and because of who He is, you can be so much more than what you could ever dream or imagine.

GOD IS GLORIOUS

Thank you for joining in starting off your day in prayer and engaging with God. Today, we will use Psalm 19 to help lead the way.

PRAISE HIM

Psalm 19:1-4 The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.

When we look up, we can't help but to be captured by God's handiwork. As we look up, we see the creativity of God; we see the magnitude of God's power and the vastness of his created order and it leaves us in awe and wonder of Him. We see how small we are compared to how great He is when we look up. We see the beauty of His creation and it proclaims how glorious our God really is. So, begin today by praising our God for being *glorious*.

*God, I praise you for you are **glorious**. There is no one and nothing that compares to you. All of your creation shows off your power and your divine nature.*

Tell God what amazes you most when you look up at what he has created.

GIVE THANKS

What God has given to us the psalmist writes with great enthusiasm about in verse 7:

Psalm 19:7-11 The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living. Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair. They are more desirable than gold even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.

God has given us divine direction. Sometimes it is easy for us to forget just what we have from God in his word. It is a gift and it's a gift that we don't often stop to consider and to really wonder at. It says here in the psalm that His word is perfect, it revives the soul, that it is trustworthy, it makes us wise, that it brings joy, that it's clear and it brings insight, that it's true and fair and more desirable than gold and its sweeter than honey and that His word and his instructions warn us and there is great reward when we do what it says. How good is the word of God? We need to stop this morning and just say thank you to God for giving his word to us.

God, thank you for the Bible. I forget just how blessed I am to have it. Thank you that you love me so much that you have given it to me. Thank you for the benefits your word gives to me, especially as I do what it says.

God's word is phenomenal. But just to know that it is amazing is not enough. In James Chapter 1:22 James writes this:

James 1:22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

James says *do what it says*. We can admire the Bible. We can respect the Bible. We can tell others just how amazing the Bible is. But until you and I do what it says, we will never fully understand just how good God's word is. So, ask God today to help you to do and to put into practice what His word tells you.

God, I want to experience the blessing of your truth today. But I am prone to celebrate your truth and then live according to my selfishness, neglecting your instruction. I need discipline to read your Word. I need strength to choose your ways. I need courage to obey when it is hard. Please empower me to obey you today, Lord. Thank you.

CONFESS AND REPENT

As we continue with Psalm 19, we pick up in verse 12:

Psalm 19:12-13 How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.

None of us are innocent in our thoughts and our words. Often, we are not even fully aware of our sin. The psalmist here asks God to cleanse him from his sin, to keep him from his sin, to keep sin from controlling him. Stop here and confess your need for God to do that in your life as well.

God, I don't want sin to control me. Thank you for breaking the power of sin over us on the cross. I want to confess my sin to you, and I ask for you to help live according to your ways today.

Take a moment and just ask God to bring to your mind a sinful thought or word or action from yesterday. And as he does, confess it to him now and ask him for forgiveness.

Now, ask him to help you live according to his ways today.

YIELD

Psalm 19 ends with this great expression of a desire to please God most. In verse 14 it says this:

Psalm 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

The psalmist calls God his rock and his redeemer. That's the strength of God and the work of God to put back together and to make valuable again those things that have become tarnished. And as we look to our rock and redeemer, he asks God to help him to live in a way that pleases God. Make that your prayer today. Praying the words of Psalm 19 verse 14 today.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

As you go throughout the day today, remember how *glorious* our God is and that He has given us His truth to transform our lives. Remember that we need His help to follow in His ways and that as we lean on Him, He will help us to live in a way that pleases Him. May today be a marvelous day as you look to Him and lean on Him and love Him. God Bless.

GOD IS OUR DELIVERER

Are you looking forward to a great day? Take a few minutes and spend some time in prayer and thank God for that.

PRAISE HIM

Psalm 34:4 I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles.

These verses make it clear that our God is our deliverer. He saves us, He brings us out, He brings us up, He brings us through. And He is happy to deliver and strong to deliver.

To begin your prayer time, take a moment and praise God and thank Him for being our God that delivers. He is not a God that leaves us where we are; He is one who rescues us and moves us into safety. God is a *deliverer*.

*God, you have seen the trouble that is around me, and you are aware of the stress I am facing today. I have some very real things happening that I need your solutions for. I also have some fear of what might happen. Thank you for being my **deliverer**. Thank you for being dependable. I praise you for your mighty power and how you work in my life.*

CONFESS AND REPENT

Psalm 34: 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles.

What the Psalmist says here is that when the righteous “cry out” or when we seek the Lord, He hears us, and He listens to us. Right now, take a minute and try to hear from God. We primarily hear from God through His word, through reading the scriptures, so you might want to do that now and meditate now back on Psalm 34.

As you move into a time of repentance, take a minute, pause, and ask God to speak to you by His Holy Spirit and talk to you about whatever He wants to talk to you about today. Often this is a sweet time of God reminding us of how important we are to Him and how much He loves us. Other times, we sense His guidance and His leadership for different areas of our lives. Sometimes He points out areas in our lives where we have not given him complete control, or we have acted in a sinful way or haven’t measured up or haven’t behaved in a way that best represents Him. Every day we want our lives to conform more into the image of Christ. We repent and turn back to Him.

Right now, as God leads you, pray about whatever you think God wants to talk to you about. Maybe He needs to remind you of His love and His faithfulness and His greatness to you, maybe He wants to show you something you need to repent of.

Okay God, you have my attention, speak to me and I will respond.

Pause here and listen for what God has to say to you today.

REQUESTS

What is it that you need to “cry out” to God about today? What do you need to seek Him for today; what needs His attention? If you could ask God for anything today what would it be? Think about it. What are those things? Just ask God; let Him be the *deliverer*. Just tell Him what’s on your heart and talk to Him about those things.

God today I am most concerned about _____.
Please show me what to do. Thank you for hearing me.

You could pause here if you need to and repeat this prayer over and over and over again for every request on your list or for everything that is concerning you. God wants to hear from His children and He already knows what is going on our lives. There is no need to hide it from him or to sugar coat it for him. Tell him like it is; tell it straight and ask for His help and His leadership and His guidance. Take as much time as you need here for your requests.

YIELD

In Matthew Chapter 6 we read a very common verse, a verse that is well known and that we are familiar with.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

As you face today, there are going to be a lot of things that need doing. Most of those things are not bad, but they are going to demand your attention. The temptation sometimes is to give all of our attention to those things and when we do that we start focusing on them and their outcome and we start focusing on how to get it done in our own power and we don’t always act the way that we should and we don’t have the faith that we should and we don’t exhibit the kind of trust that is available to us. God can be trusted to deliver us from anything. This verse reminds us that everything else that will demand our attention today will get done if we seek God first. If we seek Him and seek to live in His righteous way, everything else takes care of itself. It is so hard to remember that throughout the day because there are so many tasks and so many demands on us.

Close your time in a prayer of yielding and surrender to God. Pray that God will help you with that, that you can yield today to Him and completely surrender to His will, putting him first in your thoughts and motives, and first in your actions - that he will work with you today in seeking Him first.

Father, thank you for this day. I choose to put you first today. Lead me by your Holy Spirit that I would say what you want me to say, that I would do what you want me to do, and that I will put you first today. – Amen

If you have time, feel free to go back and spend some more time listening to God. Maybe you have some more requests that you want to make to Him. Maybe you want to dig into that scripture and read some more about how He is a *deliverer* and a refuge and help in troubled times. Go through these passages and read His word and pray those back to Him. It’s a great, great day God has given to us.

GOD IS HOLY

It is a brand-new day! Start your day off right by spending the First Fifteen minutes of your morning engaging God in prayer. Today, look into the Old Testament at Isaiah Chapter 6 to help guide your time of prayer.

PRAISE HIM

Isaiah 6:1-4 (ESV) In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of Him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

God gives this Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, this incredible vision of himself in the temple. And you see these creatures that are described here, the seraphim, and they are crying out "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty". The word 'holy' here really means pure and clean, sacred, and separated from all that is unclean and impure, everything that is sinful. They repeat it three times: "Holy, holy, holy". It's our version in the English language of "big, bigger and biggest". They say "holy, holy, holy" to describe the holiness of God being not just holier, but the holiest. It's the holiest holiness that could possibly be. So, they say, "God is holy, holy, holy".

Take a moment as you start your time of prayer to engage with God by praising Him that He is *holy*.

*God, we praise you because you are **Holy!** You are good, you are perfect, and you are pure. We praise you that your glory fills the earth.*

CONFESS AND REPENT

God is *glorious*. He is pure. When Isaiah sees that, it has an incredible impact on him. It says this in the 5th verse:

Isaiah 6:5 (ESV) And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King the LORD of hosts!"

Isaiah sees the holiness of God, the splendor and the majesty and the purity of God. It becomes blatantly obvious to him how that is not how he is; that he is actually unclean and impure before this holy, holy, holy God. The truth is, the more we get a clear view of who God is, the more we see ourselves for who we really are. The more we see His holiness, the more we see our impurities.

But 1 John tells us this in the first chapter:

1 John 1:9-10 (ESV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

God is looking to cleanse us and to forgive us if we will confess our sin to him. If we try to hide sin or claim that we don't have sin, He says we are lying about that. We are all sinners and we have all fallen short of the glory of God. Be honest before God and confess your sin to him.

*God, I see that my sin is a big deal, that my impurity cannot coexist in the presence of your holiness.
I want to confess my sin to you....*

What sin do you need to confess to God? Is there anything in your life that did not represent His character or His purposes yesterday? Be honest with God, and in your own words admit to Him and agree with Him that it is sin. Do that now.

Now, ask God to enable you to leave that sin behind and instead to think and act like Christ.

Would you thank him now that he is going to help you do just that?

GIVE THANKS

As you continue in this passage from Isaiah, consider verses 6-7:

Isaiah 6:6-7 (ESV) Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

God sent this creature to Isaiah holding a red-hot coal, and it touches it to Isaiah's lips. But instead of harming Isaiah, the red-hot purity actually removes the guilt from Isaiah. It is a beautiful foreshadowing of what Jesus will accomplish and what Jesus has now accomplished for us. In His red-hot purity, Jesus went to the cross and He died in our place and He took our guilt and He atoned for our sin, removing it from us. Taking on that sin didn't diminish Jesus' holiness. He defeated the sin instead. So now for anyone putting their trust in Jesus, their guilt is taken away and their sin is atoned for. If that is you, praise and thank God for the salvation that is found in Jesus alone.

God, thank you that you didn't leave me in my sin and guilt. Thank you for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, taking my sin, so I could be forgiven.

Tell God in your own words what it means to you, that instead of destroying you with His holiness He transformed you through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

YIELD

In verse 8 this passage continues:

Isaiah 6:8 (ESV) And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Isaiah has been changed. Isaiah has experienced the powerful transformation of God's grace. When he experienced that forgiveness that he didn't deserve, it did something in him that made him want to give himself completely back to God, throwing himself at God and saying, "Use my life, here I am, send me to do whatever you want, God." We have been changed by the grace of God, with our sin atoned for and our guilt taken away. Our response is to say, "God, I want to give you everything that I am. Here I am, send me."

As you start into a brand-new day today, let God know that is your heart. Desire to be used by Him today, for His sake because of the incredible grace He has shown you.

God, you have given more than I deserve, and you have set me free from the wrath that I deserve. I owe you my very life. I want to give my life to you again today, that I might live to serve you. I want to echo Isaiah's prayer, "Here am I! Send me." Use my life for good and for your glory today. Thank you, Lord!

Wrap up your time in prayer this morning by bringing a request before God. In the back of your mind right now, just ask God to bring to mind someone that you know of that has a need. Maybe they are struggling with something. As God brings that person to mind, go ahead and lift them up to Him, knowing that He can do what they need Him to do today. Pray for that person right now.

God, I want to pray for _____.

Ask God to bring good into their situation.

Ask God to use this situation to draw them closer to Himself.

Ask God to make it clear if there is anything you need to do, or not do in this situation.

Thank you, Lord, for what you are doing right now as I pray. Amen.

As you wrap up your time of prayer, don't let it stop your conversation with God. Continue to talk with Him throughout the day and enjoy Him today, remembering this: that He's enjoying you. He bought the relationship He has with you on the cross through his Son, so that you and He could be together in eternity, but also all day today. Enjoy your day with Him. Have a great day! God Bless!

GOD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD

For your prayer time today, look at Psalm 28, starting with verse 6.

PRAISE HIM

Psalm 28: 6-7a (NLT) Praise the Lord! For He has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust Him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy.

David is writing this psalm and he is praising God because God has heard his prayers. But not only does God *hear* David, but He *does something* about it. God acts, God helps David in his time of need. We need to be reminded today that God doesn't just hear and help King David, He *hears* and *helps* us as well. That's who our God is. He *hears* and He *helps*. Praise God this morning that He does *hear*, and He does *help*.

God, I praise you that you hear. I praise you that you help.

Tell God what it means to you that God *hears* you and *helps* you.

In those verses, David also says that God is his *strength* and God is his *shield*. What he means when he says God is his *strength* is that the God of the universe, the God that created everything, is employing His power in David's daily life. How amazing is that? And when he says God is his *shield*, he means that God is protecting him from things that would otherwise harm him or threaten him. This isn't just true for David; it's true for all of us as well. *God is our strength. God is our shield.* God wants to provide the power that you need, the *strength* that you need in your daily life. God wants to protect you, and nothing is going to get to you that hasn't gotten through him, that he hasn't allowed. With His mighty *strength*, He is our quintessential *shield*.

Praise God today that he is your strength and your shield.

God, I praise you that you are my strength. I praise you that you are my shield.

Tell God what it means to you today that He is your *strength* and *shield*.

GIVE THANKS

How incredible is it that God hears us, and that God helps us and that he is our *strength* and he is our *shield*? In verse 7, this is David's response to that.

Psalm 28:7b (NLT) I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

David can't hold it in any longer; it's got to go somewhere. He has seen what God has done and it just has to erupt out of him, this gratitude needs to be expressed. It can't be contained. Take a moment to focus on how God is blessing you. Then give thanks, in deep gratitude, for what He is doing in your life.

How has God recently blessed you? Specifically, think of three ways that God has blessed you yesterday. As those three things come to mind, tell him thank you for each one of them.

List three ways God blessed you yesterday:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

3)

Tell him thank you for each one.

REQUESTS

David continues in Psalm 28, beginning in verse 8:

Psalm 28: 8-9 (NLT) The Lord gives His people *strength*. He is a safe fortress for His anointed king. Save your people! Bless Israel, your special possession. Lead them like a shepherd and carry them in your arms forever.

Because David knows who God is and what God has done, he comes to God with confidence and he cries out, "God, please rescue and bless your people". The image that he uses here is that of a shepherd that is protectively carrying his sheep so that no harm can come to them.

Take a moment now and ask God to do just that for His people today, the church.

God, as your people, your church, we ask you to carry us in this season of uncertainty. Keep us focused on following you and keep us from getting distracted by other things. We ask that you bless your church, that your people will be a blessing to the world.

As you continue to pray, do you know of someone in need of rescue and blessing? Ask God to rescue them and bring blessing into their lives today.

In what way do you personally need God to hear and help you today? Maybe there is a physical need, an emotional need, a financial need, a relational need, or even a spiritual need. As you think through those different categories, ask God to meet your needs as he brings them to mind right now.

YIELD

God has given us so much more than we deserve. And God has not given us so much that we *do* deserve. Our only response to this incredible grace of God is to completely give our lives to Him, especially as we think about Jesus and what Jesus did for us on the cross and what he accomplished for us by providing salvation, giving us eternal life, filling us with his Spirit, changing our relationship with God. In light of that, what else could we possibly do but give Him our complete lives again today?

God, thank you for who you are and that you rescue and bless. Thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me from my sinful brokenness, and thank you for your Spirit who lives within me, giving me a life-changing relationship with you. I want to give all I am back to you today in response. Today is not about me. Today is all about you. I choose to live for you today. I love you, Lord. Thank you for loving me first. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Today is *His* day. Let's go live our lives for Him and with Him, so as to bring more good into the world and more glory to Jesus. Have an incredible day!