ALLEN JACKSON MINISTRIES®

A Prayer Watch

We have joined to together to seek the Lord. We come in humble desperation to ask God for His help. Our nation is divided, our hearts have strayed far from God's requirements, and we seem powerless to reverse the tides of hate and ungodliness. We recognize our need for God's divine intervention.

We will spend the next few minutes together, reading Scripture, praying, and sharing our experiences of God's faithfulness in our lives. The promises of Scripture inform us of God's intent and ability; our prayers are an expression of yielding and an invitation to Almighty God for His assistance; our testimony is a personal affirmation of God's presence and involvement.

SEGMENT 1: Approaching God with Humility and Repentance

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, amen.

Daniel realized from his study of scripture that it was time to for the Jewish people to return to Israel. His prayer of repentance and request for mercy speaks to us today.

Prayer—Daniel's Prayer
O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with all who love Him and obey His commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from Your commands and laws. We have not listened to Your direction. Now, O Lord, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of Your servants. For Your sake, O Lord, look with favor on Your people. Give ear and hear; open Your eyes and see the desolation of our day. We do not make requests because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For Your sake, do not delay, because Your people bear Your name, amen.

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Take a few moments and pray for those you know in positions of authority—in our schools, our community, our state, and our nation. Invite God into the midst of our lives. We need God's wisdom in our decisions. Only God can bring unity, justice, and hope to us.

SEGMENT 2: Expressions of Thankfulness

Let's approach the Lord in accordance with His direction. God is sovereign over us; we do not dictate the terms of the relationship. We submit to God and receive the benefits of His great love. Even in prayer, we follow God's direction. Elections and campaigns often bring division and agitation; let's shift our focus and spend a few minutes in expression thankfulness and joy. God is watching over us!

Psalm 100:1–5 (NIV®)

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before
him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are
his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 **Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;** give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is
good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

We enter God's presence with thanksgiving and praise. We don't always feel like being thankful. Sometimes there are great pressures and needs or we see great threats before us. Nevertheless, we choose to focus our attention on expressions of God's kindness first. Giving thanks helps to loosen the hold of fear and anxiety. We have much to be thankful for even in our darkest moments.

Psalm 103:1–5 (ESV®)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the
LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who
heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with
steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed
like the eagle's.

Conditions:

1) Bless the Lord, O my soul (mind, will & emotions).
2) Do not forget all His benefits.

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Benefits:

1) Forgives all our iniquity
2) Heals all our diseases
3) Redeems our life from the pit
4) Crowns me with steadfast love
5) Crowns me with mercy
6) Satisfies me with good
7) My youth is renewed like the eagle's

TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND MAKE A LIST OF THE LORD'S BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE . . . IDENTIFY CURRENT BLESSINGS AND TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON THE LORD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH THE YEARS. After your list is made, share a few of your "points of thankfulness with the others at your table."

SEGMENT 3: Becoming Overcomers

Romans 12:21 (NIV®)
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A Theme in the Book of Revelation . . .

Revelation 2:7 (NIV®)
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes**, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 21:6–7 (NIV®)
He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 **He who overcomes will inherit all this**, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

Jesus Victory

Revelation 17:14 (NIV®)
"They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

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The Application

Revelation 12:10–12 (NIV®)

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our
brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11
They (the Believers on earth) overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the
Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so
much as to shrink from death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who
dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to
you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

We demonstrate Jesus' victory through our obedience to God's Word. In verse 11, we are given a pathway to overcoming Satan's schemes. We can overcome all of Satan's plans and attacks by "the blood of the Lamb" and the word of our testimony. Jesus' sacrificial death, the shedding of His blood, made available to every human being the opportunity to participate in His eternal Kingdom! We must choose Him as Lord and receive by faith what HE accomplished for us.

Let's make a proclamation of what the blood of Jesus does for us . . .

I testify as to what the Word of God says the blood of Jesus does for me;
Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil;
Through the blood of Jesus, all my sins are forgiven;
The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, continually cleanses me from all sin;
Through the blood of Jesus I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God;
Through the blood of Jesus I am justified, made righteous, just as if I'd never sinned.
My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, redeemed, cleansed by the blood of Jesus;
Therefore, Satan has no place in me, no power over me, through the blood of Jesus.

SEGMENT 4: A Future Defined by Godliness

Isaiah 11:3–9 (NIV®)

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his
ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions
for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the
breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and
faithfulness the sash around his waist. 6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will
lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child

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will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah describes a time when the Messiah will reign on the earth. It will a time when righteousness fills the earth, abundance is available to all, and conflict has been replaced with contentment. This is a portrayal of God having reconciled the world to Himself. The great hatred of God and His people will have been overcome.

2 Corinthians 5:17–21 (NIV®)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that **God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.** 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The believers in Corinth had great struggles. They were gluttons, drunkards; they wrestled with sexually immorality—it was a group with weaknesses, but they were being transformed. We, too, are an imperfect group of recruits but God is working in our lives to transform us AND THROUGH US WILL DELIVER A MESSAGE, IF WE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT.

Acts 4:29–31 (NIV®)

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 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.

Prayer

Almighty God,

Consider all the threats in our current world 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. We are aware of our

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weakness, but we are also know Your great strength. Awaken Your people to become Your instruments to overcome all the power of the enemy. Let the name of Jesus be exalted throughout the earth in our generation, amen.

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