



Turn to Jesus

Calling Women to Pray

Pentecost Sunday May 31, 2020

“Could you not keep watch with Me for one hour?” (Jesus) asked...“Watch and pray so that you will not fall...” Matthew 26:40-41

It feels as though our nation is unraveling. While a heavy burden in my spirit has prompted me to issue this prayer call, the senseless killings in MN and GA seem to be visible evidence that we are in serious trouble.

The following prayer is one I will be using tonight, Pentecost Sunday, on my knees, for one hour. I have left blank spaces in the written prayer so that you can write out your own praise, confession, and requests as God’s Spirit brings them to your mind and heart.

Thank you for joining me as together we pray...

Lord God of Pentecost,

You are the One who promised You would not leave us like orphans, but that You would come to us in fullness of power and peace!¹ And on Pentecost over 2000 years ago, You did! You kept Your promise! You poured out Your Spirit on all people. On that great day when the church was born, Your Word says that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”²

¹ John 14:18; Acts 1:8

² Acts 2:17, 21

So now we—women, who have called on Your name; we, who are saved by the blood of Jesus and indwelt by Your Holy Spirit--we bow before You acknowledging Your greatness and Your glory. No one compares to You. No one is Your equal. "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there."³ There is nowhere in all the Universe where You are not. Surely Your arm "...is not too short to save, nor [Your] ear too dull to hear."⁴

I acknowledge You as _____

We, women saved by the Lord, bow in worship before You. Like Mary of old, we pour out upon You our "perfume" of adoration and time as we spend this hour in humility at Your throne.⁵

So many people are desperately afraid! We admit and honestly confess there are times when we, too, are swamped by a wave of apprehension and fear. What kind of future is our nation facing? We are being attacked by an invisible enemy—a virus so contagious it threatens everyone, everywhere. And at the same time that we wear masks, keep a social distance and wash our hands, we are also battling record-breaking floods, tornadoes, and storms while isolated, locked down, and separated from friends and family. We shudder when we also consider what's happening not only personally, but that which is taking place politically, racially and economically to our beloved nation. We are in chaos.

Help us to regain our focus. We are grandmothers, wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters who hold a unique position to motivate, inspire, direct, and guide those in our homes, churches and neighborhoods. If we take our eyes off of You, we dread to think of the rippling impact on others. We choose to turn to Jesus. Now!

Jesus, did You not say, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me"? Did You not say, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"?⁶ Does Your Word not say that God placed all things under Your feet and appointed You to be head over everything?⁷

³ Isaiah 40:25-26; Psalm 139:7-8

⁴ Isaiah 59:1

⁵ John 12:3

⁶ Matthew 28:18, 20

⁷ Ephesians 1:22

We turn to You. You are called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁸ You are Lord of the nations, the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.⁹ No one can understand Your ways. "Are You not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can withstand You."¹⁰

As we turn to You, we acknowledge that we were established as one nation under God. Have we not pledged, "In God We Trust?" Yet we find ourselves constantly bombarded with the shrill voices of those who demand we distance ourselves from You; they say that You are just one of many gods, if You are a god at all; they warn that we cannot risk offending each other by calling on Your name...Jesus. We hear the enemy insinuating that You are "not fixing this" because You *can't fix this*. That You are somehow outdated. Irrelevant. Our faith is being assaulted. It seems obvious. The root of our national problems is sin. Rebellion against You. Defiance of You.

And so our spirits rise up within us and throw off the smothering cloak of spiritual oppression and political correctness. We shout Your name. You are Yahweh. Jehovah--the personal God.¹¹ The great I AM--the eternal God.¹² The All-mighty--the Powerful God.¹³ You are Jesus. Savior. Immanuel.¹⁴ God with us, never to leave or forsake us. Your power has not been diluted or depleted over the ages. You are just as powerful...just as much in authority...as You were in Creation; in the deliverance of Your people from Egypt and in the parting of the Red Sea. You are the One who sends down the fire.¹⁵ Who fells the giants.¹⁶ Who makes wars to cease.¹⁷ *Who raises the dead!*¹⁸

I shout Your name: _____

⁸ Isaiah 9:6

⁹ Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁰ 2 Chronicles 20:6

¹¹ John 20:28

¹² John 8:58

¹³ Matthew 28:18

¹⁴ Matthew 1:23

¹⁵ 2 Chronicles 7:1

¹⁶ 1 Samuel 17:1-50

¹⁷ Psalm 46:9

¹⁸ 2 Kings 4:1-37; Luke 7:11-16; 8:40-42, 49-56; Ephesians 1:17-21

As we turn to You, we choose to place our trust in You.

If "...the kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord,"¹⁹ we trust in You.

If "...the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging,"²⁰ we trust in You.

Though "...nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall..."²¹ we trust in You. When "...the wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright..."²² we trust in You.

We trust You. *We trust You!*

I trust You when _____

I trust You for _____

Because of the pandemic, we are told that we cannot even worship You in our own churches, and that when we are allowed to regather, we must keep our distance from each other, wear masks, and we can't sing. Because of political correctness, we are not allowed to bring You into the marketplace or the workplace; into the State House or the schoolhouse; onto the battlefield or the football field; into the courtroom or the back room or the bedroom. As though the God of gods can be contained, boxed in, restricted, bound, hidden. We laugh at such foolishness and exalt You as the Most High God who strides the winds of the earth. The clouds are the dust of Your feet.²³ The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain You.²⁴ We invite You to have Your way in our lives. In our state. In our nation. In our world.

I invite You into my _____

Now arise, O Lord Jesus Christ. Have You not wondered that there were no intercessors for your people?²⁵ Look on us, women who are followers of You, now. Please. We are interceding. We, Your people who are called by Your name. Listen to us as we cry out to

¹⁹ Psalm 2:2

²⁰ Psalm 46:2-3

²¹ Psalm 46:6

²² Psalm 37:14

²³ Nahum 1:3

²⁴ 2 Chronicles 6:18

²⁵ Isaiah 59:16

You on behalf of our nation. Do not reject us. Have pity on us as we stand in the gap on behalf of our land.²⁶

We feel the encroaching evil. Darkness and gloom are descending. Those who hate us are infiltrating us. Those who are dedicated to destroying us are all around us. Are You at the head of this army? Is this the beginning of the Day of the Lord?²⁷ Have we tried Your patience and crossed the line into Your judgment? Are You holding us accountable for our sin and rebellion and defiance, for our profanity and blasphemy and idolatry? "You alone are to be feared. Who can stand before You when You are angry?"²⁸ *Are You?*

Most Holy Lord. We want to make everything right with You. So we confess our sin. You are righteous. We are not. You always do the right thing. We have done wrong. We are covered with shame because we know better. We have taught our children that You are not their Creator—that they simply evolved as cosmic accidents with no eternal purpose or significance. We have had generations of blessing and prosperity, yet we have refused to thank You, and instead give ourselves credit for what has come from Your hand. We have agreed with those who contradict Your Word. We have turned away from Your truth and believed lies. We have mocked Your image in which we were created as male and female.²⁹ We have treated life casually. We have legalized infanticide, snuffing out the next generation for convenience and profit. Then we have covered our own shame and guilt by declaring we have the right to choose. We have redefined Your institution of marriage as though we are wiser than You. We have destroyed our environment selfishly. We have passed by the needy uncaringly. We have demanded entitlements defiantly. We have despised and abused those who are different than we are. We have not listened to those who have warned us of the consequences of turning away from You. We are so, so sorry!

I confess our national sin of _____

I confess my sin of _____

I will stop _____

I will turn away from _____

²⁶ Ezekiel 22:30

²⁷ Joel 1:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:2

²⁸ Psalm 76:7

²⁹ Genesis 1:27

We claim Your promise that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.³⁰

We believe that through our faith in You, Jesus, we have redemption through Your blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of Your grace...³¹ Isn't that what Your name means? Savior. Because You will save us from our sins.³² Thank You for saving us...for cleansing us...for hearing our prayer.

Thank You for forgiving and cleansing me of _____

And now, on this Pentecost Sunday, the last day of May, we shudder as we look into the summer. We are face to face with a mess! What can be done to save us from ourselves? Even as the question reverberates in our minds, the answer is given: the solution to our spiritual, moral, political, social and racial meltdown—to the restoration of the crumbling foundation of our nation, including our economy and businesses—is found in You. You are the Answer. You are the Solution. Yet instead of turning to You, we have seemed to be turning farther and farther away from You. *But not now.* We turn around. We turn to You. We re-turn to You. We run to You. We cling to You. We plead with You...

Turn to us! Draw near to us!³³ If You do not help us, we will be defenseless. If You do not protect us, we will be exposed to danger. If You do not deliver us from evil, we will be overcome by it. If You do not have plans to give us hope and a future, we will slide into the past tense as a nation.³⁴ Into oblivion. We feel our nation sliding down even now.

Prince of Peace, breathe the cool, soothing wind of Your Spirit across the fiery rhetoric, rage, and rioting that have erupted. Grant us courage to face legitimate issues of injustice, oppression, and prejudice. Grant us the strength of character to set things right, while

³⁰ 1 John 1:9

³¹ Ephesians 1:7

³² Matthew 1:21

³³ James 4:8

³⁴ Jeremiah 29:11-13

rejecting that which is wrong. Forgive us our sins as we forgive everyone who has sinned against us.³⁵ Grant us Your peace.

Merciful Savior. You have said that our land is a land that You, the Lord our God, care for; that Your eyes are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.³⁶ As You look on our nation from this day of Pentecost forward, we ask for what we know we don't deserve. We ask that once again You would pour out Your Spirit on all flesh. Pour out Your blessings upon us.

Please...

- Bless our national and local elections. Raise up men and women who will lead us back to You. Raise up another Asa, who was fully committed to the Lord all his life.³⁷ Raise up another Jehoshaphat who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.³⁸ Raise up another Josiah who renewed the covenant of his people with You—"to follow the Lord and keep His commands."³⁹ Raise up leaders of moral and spiritual integrity who have a strong faith and a healthy reverence for You and therefore the wisdom to make right decisions.
- Bless our President and his family, our Vice-President and his family, the Cabinet, and all those who serve as counselors and advisors. Surround our leaders with men and women who fear You and therefore have wisdom and sound judgment.
- Bless our homeland security teams. Give them eyes to see the bad guys, ears to hear the evil chatter, minds to understand the tweets and codes, and the will to act before the enemy does. Protect us from evil.

³⁵ Luke 11:4; Matthew 6:14-15

³⁶ Deuteronomy 11:11

³⁷ 2 Chronicles 15:1-17

³⁸ 2 Chronicles 19:4-20:32

³⁹ 2 Chronicles 34:1-33

- Bless our police officers and firefighters, our armed forces and border patrol—all the truly good men and women who risk their lives to keep us safe. Restore to them the respect they deserve, as they in turn treat with respect those they serve. Protect their lives and their families. Bring to the light of justice any corruption and abuse so that we can trust those in uniform. Guard those who guard us.
- Bless our doctors and nurses and all of our healthcare workers who are on the front lines of this battle against COVID-19. Protect them from the virus as they help us get through it.
- Bless our judges and prosecutors. Cause them to serve faithfully and wholeheartedly, remembering that they are accountable to You.⁴⁰ Punish those who do wrong. Encourage those who do right.

Bless my_____

You are the Fountainhead from whom all blessings flow. The list of our needs and our requests is endless. *Please.*

- Bless our lawyers. Our bankers. Our teachers. Our commissioners. Our farmers.
- Bless our preachers, Bible teachers, and seminary professors. Like Ezra of old, stir their hearts to be devoted to You first, then to the study and the preaching of Your Word.⁴¹ When they preach or teach, compel them to preach the Word, not books about the Word. Motivate them with holy fear of standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account for the way they have impacted others by their words and by their deeds. Remove those whose lives are out of sync with their lips. Raise up a generation of spiritual leaders that You approve of as workmen who do not need to be ashamed because they correctly handle the word of truth.⁴² Fill them to overflowing with Your Spirit.

⁴⁰ 2 Chronicles 19:8-11

⁴¹ Ezra 7:10

⁴² 2 Timothy 2:15, 4:1-2

- Bless our families. The unloving spirits of infidelity, dishonesty, treachery, hypocrisy, immorality, pornography, and adultery are sweeping through our homes. The enemy seems to be attacking us on every level, on every front. A vast army of evil seems to have been unleashed against the home. Especially the homes and families of Christ-followers. "We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."⁴³ We plead for Your divine protection. We plead for Your divine wisdom to counter the attacks so that our families are strengthened in their relationship with You. Be the center of our homes.

Lord of love, we even pray for You to bless our enemies. Yes, we do. Open their ears to the Truth. Open their minds to understand the Gospel. Open their hearts to long for Your love. Draw them to Yourself as moths are drawn to a flame. Your Light is stronger than their darkness. Bring them into the Light. Save them for all eternity. BUT if they reject You, we ask that You turn them on each other. Distract them. Destroy them. Prevent them from continuing to attack and persecute the righteous. Protect us from their evil plots and agendas.

Lastly, O God our Father, bless us. Bless each woman who is participating in this call to pray. Make us into vessels of honor, instruments "...for noble purposes, made holy, useful to our Master and prepared to do any good work."⁴⁴ Give us the vision, wisdom and discernment to raise our children and grandchildren to be disciples, so that Truth will be passed to the next generation.

We know the night is coming when work for You will cease.⁴⁵ Help us to redeem the time. Use women who have been cleansed by Your blood and filled with Your Spirit in a mighty, powerful way for Your Kingdom and Your glory. Now!

We remember with awe that Your first appearance after the Resurrection was to a woman! That Your first commission to share the Gospel was to a woman!⁴⁶ So we, Your daughters who follow You, reject timidity, fearfulness, and a sense of inadequacy that would delegate sharing the Gospel to others. Open our lips to boldly and fearlessly

⁴³ 2 Chronicles 20:12

⁴⁴ 2 Timothy 2:21

⁴⁵ John 9:4

⁴⁶ John 20:10-18

make known the Gospel:⁴⁷ the Good News of redemption for the past...hope for the future... joy for the present regardless of circumstances...salvation that's free...forgiveness that has no limits... love that is unconditional, boundless, and eternal⁴⁸...found at the Cross. Open our lips to give Jesus to a world that is increasingly desperate. Use us as ambassadors of peace on earth by first leading people into a right relationship with You, then with each other. When the world around us unravels, help us to stand strong on our faith in You. And when people see us standing strong, help them to see You.

Bless me.

Make me into _____

Help me to_____

Use me for _____

And now, God of grace, on this day of Pentecost, we ask once again that You send down Your Holy Spirit in fullness. Ignite the fire of revival in our own hearts. Protect us. Defend us. Comfort us. Empower us. Equip us as we put on the full armor of God so that we can stand against the devil's schemes...so that in this day of evil, we choose to stand our ground...taking up the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God...and pray. With this in mind, we remain self-controlled and alert while we keep on praying until we prevail in prayer.⁴⁹ And we keep on watching expectantly.

Could it be...that You have used this pandemic to put us all in our homes on a Sabbath rest for the purpose of looking up, turning to Jesus, and getting right with You, before the great and terrible Day of the Lord?⁵⁰ Could this be the year of Your return? We hope so! We are eagerly waiting for You.⁵¹ *Come Lord Jesus!*⁵²

⁴⁷ Ephesians 6:19

⁴⁸ Ephesians 3:14-19

⁴⁹ Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 4:7

⁵⁰ Joel 2:1, 12

⁵¹ Philippians 3:20

⁵² Revelation 22:20

For the glory of Your great name that is above every name. The name that one day every tongue will confess and before whom every knee will bow...JESUS.⁵³

Amen

The following is an incredible choral and instrumental rendition of The Blessing found in Numbers 6:24-26. While it was arranged and performed in the UK, for the UK, the blessing is God's own that applies to His people everywhere. And it is my prayer for you and me as we conclude our Hour of Prayer. Listen and be blessed...

<https://youtu.be/PUtl3mNj5U>

⁵³ Philippians 2:9-11