

October 17, 2006

A Corporate Prayer To Our Father

O Father God, truly there is none like You. You are our Creator, You are the Source and Sustainer of all that we know and enjoy. You exist in perfect light and holiness; You are perfect Truth. Even a glimpse of Your resplendent glory and majesty would strike us dead where we stand. Truly, Your nature and being are gloriously infinite mysteries that make the whole sum of man's knowledge as nothing in Your sight. Even if we were to learn something new about You every moment for all eternity, we could not begin to exhaust the knowledge of the Almighty. The entire expanse of the universe is but a particle of dust dancing on a puff of air at Your fingertip. We cry with the Psalmist, *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high, I cannot attain to it.*

As recipients of Your divine favor, O Lord; as children bought with the blood of Your precious Son, Jesus, we lay ourselves before You. Each of us are sinners by nature and by choice. Each of us deserve wrath and hell a million times over for how we have offended Your infinite glory. Yet in Your magnificent benevolence, You did not give us what we deserved. You gave us grace. You gave us faith. You gave us hope. You gave us life. Ultimately, O Lord, You gave us Yourself – the infinite treasure of the Godhead, bestowed through Jesus Christ. We are wholly unworthy of such blessings, which makes them all the more lustrous and beautiful in their unbounded testimony to Your preeminence.

As Your gathered saints, O Lord, we lift to You these petitions. As Your people, we exist by You and for You. You are our All-Sufficient King. Thus, O God, we pray these three things.

First, Lord, **keep us humble.** Make us aware each day of the disaster we court when we depend on ourselves. We confess to You that we are quick to turn to our flesh, quick to pursue man's wisdom, and quick to rely on our own strength. Even when we gather as Your body, we are quickly distracted by earthly demands and the traditions of men. Cleanse us of all that clouds our vision of You. Come in power and might into the midst of Your assembly, and let Your Holy Spirit rush upon us as fire through fallen leaves. Breath upon these dead men's bones and make us live again for Your grandeur. Though worry and anxious thoughts and doubts may stalk us as prey, You, O God, are our salvation – the Holy Warrior of eternity who has conquered death and doubt and reigns as our Sovereign over every circumstance. Keep us humble, O Lord.

Second, Father God, **make us hungry for Your Word.** The weeds of worldliness spring up daily to choke us. The onslaught of ungodliness rushes at us like flooding torrents of filth. The demons of this world lurk at every turn to steal our peace, steal our joy, and steal our witness. But Your Word protects, Your Word sanctifies, Your Word alone satisfies the cravings of the converted heart. Draw us to Your Word. Let us be pierced by it. Let us be broken by it. Let us be changed by it. Let us feast on it and be filled. Establish reservoirs of truth in our souls that will spring forth with the bountiful fruit of obedience. Keep us from the temptations of our sensibilities – the temptations to change it, or neglect it, or conform it to our own notions. Wield it as Your Sword; lay us open with it; slay us with it if You so desire. O God, make us hungry for Your Word.

Finally, O God, let us **be a church that seeks Your glory.** Let us function for the honor of our Head, Jesus Christ. Keep us from the vain conceit that pursues worldly reputation, that looks for praise from the lips of men, that puffs up our minds with position and pride. We are Yours. We exist for no other. Let the eternal name I AM spring forth from hearts and lips that are wholly satisfied with Your fullness. Let the person of Christ be visible to the world through us. Make us instruments who rejoice with one glad harmony over the greatness of Your renown. Whether it be with our life or with our death, may we extol Your person, Your deeds, and Your redemption. Father God, let us be a church that seeks Your glory. In the precious name of Jesus we ask this. Amen.