

Weekly Prayer Strategy

14 May – 20 May 2018

This week's prayer strategy is based on the sermon by Paul Nyamuda entitled: Overcoming Prejudice.

Prayer Point 1 - Get your identity from God alone

Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward,[a] they found a plain in Shinar[b] and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel[c]—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Ephesians 6:9

And masters, do the same for your slaves. Give up your use of threats, because you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favouritism with Him.

- Pray that we would be a Church that takes our identity from God alone. Repent of every attempt you may have made to take your identity from other people and not God.
- Pray that you would be one who does not show favouritism but treats those around you fairly.

Prayer Point 2 – Seek Understanding

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

- Pray for a heart that seeks to understand those different from you rather than judging or discriminating against them.

Prayer Point 3 – Love your enemies

Matthew 5:43-45

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' 44But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous....

1 Samuel 24:16-17

16When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 17He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you....

Romans 12:19-21

Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20On the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good....

- Pray for the grace to forgive your enemies and to pray and love them.

Prayer Point 4 – See the opportunities within the calamity

Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. 18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. 19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

- Pray for the grace to view your pain from God's perspective.
- Pray for the wisdom to know how to use your calamity for your good and the good of others.

Prayer Point 5 – Look for common ground

Acts 22:25-27

As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?" 26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "This man is a Roman citizen." 27 The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I am," he answered.

Acts 23:6-8

Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead." 7 When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)

- Pray that you would never categorise people according to the devil's categories.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would teach you the art of seeking and identifying common ground in conversations and relationships.

Prayer Point 6 – Deal with perceptual distortions

Romans 12:2 ESV

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 4:8 ESV

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

John 8:32

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you eradicate all perceptual distortions you have over different people groups.

Prayer Point 7 – Create new mental images of people behaving differently

John 1: 46-48

Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. 47When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no deceit.” 48“How do You know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.”

- Pray that we would be a Church that sees people as God sees them.
- Pray that you would be one whose heart overflows with the love of God to those different from us.

Prayer Point 8 – Learn to manage your own rage or reaction to discrimination

John 5:41-44

“I do not receive honour from men. 42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. 43 I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me, if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. 44 How can you believe, who receive honour from one another, and do not seek the honour that comes from the only God?

- Pray for a heart that looks up to God and not man for honour.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you manage your own rage or reaction to discrimination.