

Prayer Focus 16th September 2018

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Consider the instructions given to Israel and apply these instructions to your life today. God directs the people to do certain things. "If" you will do your part, "then" He will do His part.

"If My people, which are called by My name..."

God is speaking, He is addressing His people, those people that are called by His name. Today, He would be addressing Christians. God knows the lost man, the sinner, will not obey His commandments or pay attention to God. But He most assuredly expects Christians to listen to Him, to look into His Word for direction, and to live in accord with His precepts. John 1:12 "But as many as received Him (Jesus) to them He gave the power to become the sons of God."

Pray: "Thank you Father that through Jesus you know my name. Today, direct me and show me how to live for You."

"...shall humble themselves..."

This is a very hard concept in this culture. Humility. Jesus said those who are 'poor in spirit' will have the kingdom of heaven. Take note; God does not force Himself on any man or woman. He desires that you yield to Him and allow Him to take first place in your heart. The Scripture says: "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

Pray: "Lord God, show me those ways that I have become proud. Help me to turn to You with a humble heart."

"...and pray..."

Pray. This is not some thought lightly tossed toward heaven as you drive to work. God desires that you come before Him and spend time in His presence. He loves you just like you are, He will not turn you away. Maybe you have been away for a long time; come Home to Him. He will welcome you with open arms. "And you shall seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13

Pray: "Hear my prayer Holy Father as I bow my heart to You and seek You."

"...and seek My face..."

So often you want help from God. You seek His hand. God wants you to know Him in a personal and intimate way. He wants you to know His heart. The Scripture tells you that the nation of Israel saw the acts of God, but Moses knew the ways of God. It also says the people knew God from afar, but Moses knew Him as a friend. Jesus speaking to His disciples said; "You are my friends, if you do whatever I have commanded you." John 15:14

Pray: "Lord, I come close to You seeking to renew a relationship that seems to have grown cold. I want to spend time with You today."

"...and turn from their wicked ways..."

You may have little habits you know are wrong, or unconfessed sins, or an unforgiving spirit; these things build up over time. Allow God to look into your heart. Agree with Him when He puts His finger on a sin. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9

Pray: "Father, I know there is no sin so big that You cannot forgive, and no sin so small that You will overlook. Forgive me and allow me to walk with You in a new way without the burden of sin."

"...then..."

The next phrases tell you that after you have done those things required by God, He will then do those things that only He can do. "He will hear from heaven, He will forgive our sins, and He will heal our land."

Pray: "Heavenly Father, I beg you to be patient with me. I look for your forgiveness and healing touch for me, for my family, for my church, for my country."

EBC Focus:- pray for good relationships with churches in Swanage, Purbeck & across Dorset.

Pray for joint vision & initiatives that transcend denominations ensuring we are focused on God as He really moves in our area, nation & world at this time

Street of the Week:- Prospect Crescent

World Prayer Points:-

From Tearfund: With more than 1 billion people worldwide lacking access to electricity, Tearfund are calling on the World Bank to invest more in off-grid renewable energy sources like solar and micro-hydro to benefit the world's poorest people.

Dear God, You are the God of light, the God of love, the God of all goodness. We think of those people around the world who have no light; people who are suffering under the darkness of injustice, oppression and poverty. Help us Lord, as your church, to spread your light around the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.