

## A Prayer for the Renewal of Joy

By Scotty Smith

*Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. Ps. 85:6–7*

Gracious Father, I begin my day thankful for the honesty and candor of the Bible. We'll never go through anything, this side of the new heaven and new earth, not anticipated and reflected in the storehouse of your Word. Today I'm thinking about my need for refreshment and the renewal of my joy. It's not that I'm in a melancholic funk or fear I'm heading for a "dark night of the soul." I just feel kind of emotionally flat and spiritually tired. I readily join the chorus of many who cry, "Revive us again."

When I hear the apostle Paul ask believers in Galatia, "What has happened to all your joy?" ([Gal. 4:15](#)), I'm not sure how to answer. Have I fallen back into performance-based living? Have I foolishly given people power over my heart, yet again? Too little Sabbath and sleep? Am I hoarding certain hurts and wounds, ashamed and unwilling to bring them to you?

Perhaps I'm angry at you and don't want to admit it—resentful that you're asking more of me than I want to give? Maybe I'm simply refusing to accept normal changes and transitions of life. I'm not sure when my heart began to leak joy, but I don't want to get used to this condition and I don't want to get stuck in the paralysis of analysis. Show me, Lord, and set my heart free. Grant me repentance and grant me refreshment.

Since your joy is our strength, Father ([Neh. 8:10](#)), cause my heart muscle to beat afresh with your gladness and delight—the felicity which fills the courts of heaven. Holy Spirit, joy is one of the fruits you grow in the lives of the God's people. Please weed, prune, and fertilize my heart for a fresh crop.

Lord Jesus, since you're praying we'll experience the fullness of your joy ([John 17:13](#)), I'll wait with anticipation and hope, for your prayers *never* fail. Fill me afresh with the inexpressible and glorious joy of the salvation you've won for us (1 Pet. 1:8–9). Only your unfailing love is sufficient for my ever-needy heart. So very Amen I pray, in your trustworthy and triumphant name. Amen



May 15, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## Jesus is the Final Word



*Mark 2:22 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."*

# Order of Service

## Announcements

### Welcome

### Preparation for Worship

#### -----God's Greatness-----

### Call To Worship

### Hymn of Praise

“What He’s Done” . . . . . Stanfill/Leonard/Golden/Sooter

### Prayer of Invocation

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Heidelberg Catechism\* , Q. #21

**Song of Praise:** “Hope is Awake”

. . . Schmidt/Land/Ivey/Graham/Espinoza/Ellis/Glaspie/Lent

### Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

#### ----- God's Renewal-----

**Understanding Ourselves Rightly:** Mark 7:14-15, 21-23

### Public Confession

### Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort:** Ezekiel 36:25-27

### Song of Renewal

“Lord, I Need You”. . . Reeves/Stanfill/Maher/Nockels/Carson

#### -----God's Grace-----

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 2:18–3:6

### Prayer

### The Sermon

“Jesus is the Final Word”

### Song of Communion

“Lion and the Lamb”. . . . . Brown/Johnson/Mooring

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Prayer of Approach

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

### Holy Communion

#### -----God's Blessing-----

### Parting Hymn

“From the Day”. . . . . Palmer/Smith/Hein/Kulia

### Benediction

\* The Heidelberg Catechism originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.

cannot be held in old religious structures or old lives. How these incendiary truths invite us. If many in the world could only see this Christ, they would find him irresistible. People need to be exposed to the reality of God’s Word, so the false caricatures of Christ will fall away. But they also need to be exposed to people full of his new wine.<sup>2</sup>

### Joy versus gloom.

Christians are not to be weighed down by sadness, the burden of sin, or the dread of death. They are not to be killjoys, who frown on the convivial fellowship with tax collectors and sinners and who cannot lift their arms in praise. Christian spirituality is not a ball and chain that keeps the spirit from soaring. The exultation over the coming of the one who forgives sins and feasts with sinners and the glad expectation of the glory to come is to affect our mood and outlook on life. One need only check the references to joy in the New Testament to see how it pervades the experience of Christians, even in the direst of circumstances.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior* (Vol. 1, pp. 77–78). Crossway Books.

<sup>2</sup>Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior* (Vol. 1, pp. 79–80). Crossway Books.

<sup>3</sup>Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 114). Zondervan Publishing House.

*“We spend more time asking  
what would Jesus do instead  
of what did Jesus do.”*

*— Tullian Tchividjian*

## Plucking Heads of Grain

Mark 2:23–28 (ESV)

*One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: <sup>26</sup>how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” <sup>27</sup>And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”*

Pharisees’ domestication of real faith into humanly attainable standards made it impossible for them to fathom that Christ’s disciples were not breaking the Sabbath when, as they walked through a wheat field, they broke off the heads of wheat, rubbed the grain out of their hands, blew away the chaff, and ate it. They could not handle Jesus’ reasoning from Scripture that since King David ate forbidden consecrated bread to meet his need, so it was alright to meet one’s need on the Sabbath: “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (2:27).

## A Withered Hand and A Plot

Mark 3:1–6 (ESV)

*Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup>And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” <sup>4</sup>And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.*

**To the Pharisees, healing was work, regardless of how necessary or beneficial it might be.**

## What revelatory fire comes from the repeated collisions of Christ and the religious establishment.

From them we see that Christ’s great work is to heal us from our sin; that Christ comes to sinners who realize their need; that the new life he brings

## Upcoming Events

**Tonight, May 15 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer**  
GCC Prayer Gathering —1300 High St.

**Tuesday, May 17 6:30-8 P.M. Youth Group(Grades 6-12)**  
at the home of the Deicherters.

**Wednesday, May 18 7:00 P.M. Men’s Small Group**  
at the home of Karl Yorgey

**Saturday, May 21 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast**  
at the home of Pastor Rick.

**Saturday, June 4 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner**  
at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

**Sunday, June 12 10:30 A. M. Graduate Recognition Sunday**

## Crossing Cultures International David and Mindy Nelson



### Indonesia

Please pray for CCI Indonesia's plans to hold a God's Financial Principles (GFP) seminar at Waikabubak with 15 participants. Please pray for those who will attend. Pray they learn to manage their finances with biblical wisdom and become good stewards of what God has provided.

In March, while traveling to West Sulawesi on his motorbike, Frids had a single-vehicle accident and landed on the right side of his body. This has had a significant impact on his health. Praise God for His hedge of protection because he avoided hitting a vehicle on the very busy road. God is good; even though he fell, he was not hit by another vehicle. Please pray for his health and restoration. Frids states that this situation cannot stop him from carrying out the vision and mission that God has given him.

### DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Holden

- Praise for a successful Women’s Conference.
- Pray that the recently completed Core Values Video will energize students to reach others on their campus.

### CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Pray for the family of Jason Spieker, who died in a tragic accident last month. He is survived by a wife and two young daughters.
- Pray Maddie and Jonathan as they transition to their new home.
- Pray for breakthrough in marriages and families as they experience God’s power to heal even the most impossible situations.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . . May 15, 2022

- Pray for Anthony and Janet Conte, parents of Mandi Yensan's friend, Christine. Anthony is in the hospital with fluid buildup around his heart and needs a new valve. Pray for Anthony's surgery to be scheduled soon and strength for Christine's mom during this difficult time.
- Pray for Eric Yensan and his family, whose Great Uncle Bob Richter passed away on May 3rd. Prayers of God's perfect peace for Eric's family during this loss.
- Pray for Marcie Nettleton, who had surgery on Friday, May 6th...a defibrillator placed in for her heart in case of emergency.
- Pray for John Kurtyka, cousin of Lorraine Blanski's husband, Matt. John's 32-year-old son passed away suddenly on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Pray for his daughter, Leah, who is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Pray for God's strength, peace, and comfort for John and his family.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for Liam's and Terry's families.
- Pray for Steve Simons neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God's strength for the McCabe family.
- Pray for Igor Parfenioug, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Dawn Rhoads, Igor's mother-in-law, who had her 4<sup>th</sup> cancer treatment on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Pray for God's healing for Dawn.
- Pray for Delores, the mother of Donna Jenkins' niece, Shelly, who was scheduled for surgery on April 27<sup>th</sup> for artery blockage. She was in intensive care until the surgery could be performed. Pray for a successful procedure.
- Pray for Lynn Rhoads, a friend of Donna Jenkins, who is back in the hospital again. She will be having tests done to determine what is wrong. Pray for God's wisdom for her doctors and God's healing for Lynn.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' friend, Debbie Breyer, who is in Quakertown Rehab for observation, in case she would have another stroke.
- Pray for Nic Collins. The new school is not being launched as their director stepped down. Pray that Nic receives an internship with the church.
- Praise that Tyler and Kaci Yensan made it safely to their new base in California, and continued prayers for housing on base and church fellowship with Christians.
- Please continue to pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Praise that Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, continues to have a positive outlook with PT using his new prosthetics for his left leg and both arms.
- Pray for Denny Barchak. Denny has completed physical therapy on his arm. Pray for strength as he faces many more tests on his cancer journey.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

## Message

### Jesus is the Final Word

Mark 2:18–3:6

These initial head-on collisions with the religious establishment produced brilliant sparks which illuminated the character of Christ and the heart of God. Having exhibited Jesus' relationship to sin and sinners, Mark turns to the issues of fasting and observance of the Sabbath. In these next narratives it is evident that opposition to Jesus has become heightened and outspoken.

### The Religious Establishment

Mark 2:18–19(ESV)

*Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"* <sup>19</sup>*And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.* <sup>20</sup>*The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.*

For us believers on the other side of the Cross and Resurrection, the application for this is hugely encouraging. We are not just "guests of the bridegroom"—we are the Bride of Christ! This is more than metaphorical language—it is reality. It speaks of the deepest intimacy and exchange. We actually have the "Spirit of God" (Romans 8:9). Therefore, we are to outdistance the attendants of the bridegroom in the intensity and continuance of our joy.<sup>1</sup>

### Wineskins

Mark 2:21–22 (ESV)

*No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.* <sup>22</sup>*And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."*

The new that Jesus brings is incompatible with the old. He has not come to patch up an old system that does not match the revolutionary rule of God. He is not simply a reformer of the old, but one who will transform it. There can be no concessions, no accommodations, and no compromises with the old.