

15 Prayers for God's Power

John Piper

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1. Lord, make me so mighty in wisdom that I know and taste that the height of might is childlikeness ([Matthew 18:4](#)).
2. Lord, make me so mighty in war that I defeat every impulse in my soul that destroys peace ([Hebrews 12:14](#); [Romans 14:19](#); [Matthew 5:9](#)).
3. Lord, make me so mighty in my hardness against bitterness that tenderness of heart is not destroyed by wounds ([Hosea 11:8](#); [Ephesians 4:32](#); [1 Peter 3:8](#)).
4. Lord, make me mightily unbending and inflexible in my Christ-exalting resolve to bend and become all things to all people that I might save some ([1 Corinthians 9:22](#)).
5. Lord, make my trunk and branches so mightily tough and impervious to wind and drought that I never cease to bear the fruit of gentleness ([Galatians 5:23](#); [James 3:17](#); [1 Peter 3:4](#)).
6. Lord, make me so mighty in serpentine discernment that I see every opening for dove-like love ([Matthew 10:16](#)).
7. Lord, make me so mightily unmoved by the sting and deceits of injustice against me that I may feel and show the miracle of undeserved compassion ([Luke 10:33](#); [15:20](#); [Hebrews 10:34](#); [1 Peter 3:8](#)).
8. Lord, make me so mightily unyielding to the enticements of selfishness that from my heart kindness forever flows ([2 Corinthians 6:6](#); [Galatians 5:22](#); [Ephesians 4:32](#); [Colossians 3:12](#)).
9. Lord, make me so mightily unresponsive to the honeyed lure of self-pity that I may have ever-replenished resources to return good for evil ([Romans 12:17](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:15](#); [1 Peter 3:9](#)).
10. Lord, make me mighty with ruthless courage to cut off my hand at every trace of greed that I may be content with what I have ([Philippians 4:11](#); [1 Timothy 6:8](#); [Hebrews 13:5](#)).
11. Lord, make me mighty with happy thoughts of child and wife and King to tear out my eye lest I betray their trust and lose the purity that sees my God ([Matthew 5:8, 29](#)).
12. Lord, make me so mighty against the powers of self-justification that I never lose the humility to repent and weep for my sin ([James 4:9](#); [5:16](#)).
13. Lord, make me so mighty in resisting the bait of frenzied productivity that I never cease to enjoy the still waters of prayer and your sweet presence ([Psalm 23:2](#); [Isaiah 46:10](#); [Luke 10:42](#)).
14. Lord, make me so mighty against the deadly undertow of self-reliance that I am never ashamed to trust your arm, like a child with his father, in every breaking wave ([Psalm 37:3, 5](#); [Proverbs 3:5](#); [Galatians 2:20](#)).
15. Lord, make me so mighty in seeing and mighty in savoring the promises of your sovereign grace that in all my sorrows I might never cease to sing your praise ([Matthew 5:11–12](#); [Acts 16:25](#); [2 Corinthians 6:10](#); [1 Peter 4:13](#)).



July 10, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Lord God Almighty



*Mark 5:6 "And when he saw Jesus from afar,
he ran and fell down before him."*

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

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

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise

"His Name is Jesus" Perronet/Holden/Rippon/Groveman

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise

"The Lord Almighty Reigns". Althoff/Kauflin/Stiff

***Affirmation of Faith:** The New City Catechism , Q/A #48

Song of Praise

"Come People of the Risen King". Getty/Townend

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

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

Scripture Warning: James 2:10, Matthew 5:20

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 5:8-9

Song of Renewal: "We Fall Down". Chris Tomlin

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

Scripture Reading: Mark 5:1-20

Prayer

The Sermon

"The Lord God Almighty"

Song of Communion: "Behold our God". Baird/Altrogge

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

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

Holy Communion

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

Parting Hymn

"Whom Shall I Fear?". Cash/Tomlin

Benediction

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Jesus' Instructions to the Restored Man

Mark 5:18–20 (ESV)

As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

- The community has begged Jesus to leave them (5:17); this man begs to be with Jesus (5:18). Another surprising twist in the account comes when Jesus declines his petition—the only request that he does not grant in this story.
- Jesus also reverses his usual demand of silence by telling the man to spread the news how God has mercied him.

Go home

He says, go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you. Here He identifies Himself as the Lord. And how He had mercy on you. What does it take to be able to witness for the power of Christ? The fact that He's worked in your life, right? From the moment you were converted, from the moment you were transformed, you inherited immediately the responsibility to proclaim the name of Christ.

God takes the initiative in turning to human beings—even those across the lake in an unholy land filled with swine and demons. God searches out those who have never searched for or thought about turning to God. The psalmist says, "I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me" (Ps. 120:1).

¹MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2014). *John MacArthur Sermon Archive*. Grace to You.

²Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 203). Zondervan Publishing House.

The Encounter with Unclean Spirits

Mark 5:6–13 (ESV)

And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” ⁸For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” ⁹And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” ¹⁰And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹²and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

- Jesus was telling the evil spirit to come out of the man (5:8), which meets with evasive tactics. Unlike humans, who cannot quite fathom the reality of the divine breaking into human history (4:41), evil spirits always recognize Jesus’ divine origin (1:24; 3:11; see James 2:19) and quake in his presence. They know that they are pitted against vastly superior firepower.²
- These demons create fits of frenzy in whatever they inhabit, and the very thing they want to avert happens. The united legionary force is broken up as the pigs, an animal without a herd instinct, begin to stampede, lemminglike, down the bank and into the waters, where both they and the evil spirits are destroyed.

The Encounter with the Townspeople

Mark 5:14–17 (ESV)

The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.

- When the community arrives, they are not frightened by what has happened to the pigs but by seeing this man now clothed and in his right mind! They do not rejoice at his recovery but are afraid.

The demons had begged Jesus to let them stay in the region (5:10); the townspeople now beg Jesus to leave the region. They are more comfortable with the malevolent forces that take captive human beings and destroy animals than they are with the one who can expel them.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 12 6:00 PM to Dusk (includes Supper)

Summer Youth/Young Adult Bible Study at the Deicherts

Saturday, July 16 8:00 A.M. Men’s Breakfast

at the home of Pastor Rick

Sunday, July 17 6:15–7:15 P.M. House of Prayer

GCC Prayer Gathering —1300 High St.

Monday, July 25– Saturday, July 30 Senior High Youth Week

at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference in New Jersey

FamilyLife: A CRU Ministry

Steve and Kristen Scholl

- Pray for the all staff conference in Milwaukee this July.
- Pray as they lead “Art of Parenting” at their church this fall.



Crossing Cultures International

David and Mindy Nelson

Guatemala

- We are amazed at what God is doing in Guatemala. Pray for the 28 students in two new classes and three new Guatemalan nationals teaching these classes. It is so exciting to have these new teachers instructing in their first classes. We thank God for allowing us to partner with the Guatemala Baptist Seminary to equip these men and women for gospel ministry.

DiscipleMakers

Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for the summer interns.
- Praise God with us for a fruitful year of ministry and students that have come to believe the gospel despite all of the challenges of returning in person!

The day Roe v Wade was overturned was a truly beautiful day. But I do hope it serves as a reminder that the decision of a handful of judges in one country will ripple out for good and for ill, perhaps to help the cause of life in some nations but certainly to hinder it in others. And the only one who can sort out a mess like that is the one to whom we pray—the one whose mind is vast and whose hand is strong. So let’s pray together that he would act to protect the lives of the unborn in the United States and far beyond. Let’s pray that he would move powerfully to do far more abundantly than all we can ask, think, or even imagine, not only in America but all across the world. —Tim Challies

Prayer/Praise. July 10, 2022

- Pray for Emelia, the 6-year-old daughter of Barb Hunter’s friend, Lindsey. Emelia fell off monkey bars at the park last week and broke her elbow. She was transported overnight to Children’s Hospital last week for surgery.
- Pray for Joie Horner’s friend, Cheryl. Her husband was cutting down trees on June 29th, and tragically, one fell on him and took his life. He leaves behind his sweet wife and 4 children, the oldest being only 10. Pray for God’s strength, comfort, and peace for Cheryl and her family.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski’s sister-in-law, Beth, who had lumpectomy surgery on July 5th and radiation afterwards. Pray for God’s healing for Beth.
- Praise that Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski’s niece, is doing well with his prosthetics. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God’s strength for Austin as he navigates his new life.
- Pray for Leah, daughter of John Kurtyka and cousin of Lorraine Blanski, who is struggling with drug addiction and is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Pray for God’s strength, peace, and comfort for Leah.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli’s daughter, as her marriage is struggling, and harsh words are coming from her husband. Pray for her granddaughter as she is hearing things she shouldn’t be listening to.
- 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 and Terry’s families.
- Pray for Steve Simons neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God’s strength for the McCabe family during this difficult time.
- Praise that Dalton Weider, father of Lulu Bocci’s friend, Mary, is now in rehab learning to talk, walk, and move his muscles. Pray for his progress and his family as they support him.
- 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.
- Praise that Dawn Rhoads, Igor’s mother-in-law, who had her 4th cancer treatment on April 25th, is doing much better. Pray for continued healing .
- Praise that Donna Jenkins’ friend, Debbie Breyer, is home from the nursing home. Pray for Debbie’s husband, who is in the hospital with undetermined issues. Pray for God’s healing.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins’ nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Praise that Evan can be off the breathing machine for the hours he is awake. Pray for God’s healing for Evan and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

The Lord God Almighty and An Encounter with a Demon-Possessed Man

Introduction

Christ’s encounter with the demoniac took place the morning following his calming of the great night storm on the Sea of Galilee. It’s probably just barely dawn. They have just tied up their boats. Maybe a little dock was available there and immediately at the water’s edge a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met them.

This kind of power over the kingdom of darkness is only possible when God is wielding it ... whether it’s in the casting out of heaven, or the casting into the Lake of Fire, or here casting thousands of demons out of one man, this is the power of God on display. This is the most extreme encounter with the powers of supernatural wickedness anywhere in Scripture¹

The Demon Possessed Man

Mark 5:1–5 (ESV)

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.

²And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

- The fierce strength of this demon-possessed man is reiterated in 5:5: No one had the strength to “subdue” him. The Greek word used here (*damazo*) is used for taming a wild animal and is better translated, “no one was able to *tame* him.”
- **He is banished as an outcast from society** and must dwell with those whose sleep will not be disturbed by his shrieks echoing through the night as he lacerates his body with stones. He is a microcosm of the whole of creation, inarticulately groaning for redemption (Rom. 8:22).