

“A Prayer for Spiritual Reformation” by D.A. Carson

We ask you for Your blessing, for the power of the Spirit, that we may know You better and grow in our grasp of Your incalculable love for us. Bless us, Lord God, not with ease or endless triumph, but with faithfulness.

Bless us with the right number of tears, and with minds and hearts that hunger both to know and to do your Word.

Bless us with a profound hunger and thirst for righteousness, a zeal for truth, a love of people.

Bless us with the perspective that weighs all things from the vantage point of eternity.

Bless us with a transparent love of holiness.

Grant to us strength in weakness, joy in sorrow, calmness in conflict, patience when opposed or attacked, trustworthiness under temptation, love when we are hated, firmness and farsightedness when the climate prefers faddishness and drift.

We beg of You, holy and merciful God, that we may be used by You to extend Your kingdom widely, to bring many to know and love You truly.

Grant above all that our lives will increasingly bring glory to Your dear Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip us with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”



November 13, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Witnesses

**But when the Comforter is
come, whom I will send to
you from the Father, even
the Spirit of truth, which
proceeds from the
Father...**

—John 15:26



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

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

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise: "House of the Lord"Smith/Wickham

Prayer of Invocation

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

Song of Praise

"Jesus Friend of Sinners".Hall/West

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

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

Understanding Ourselves Rightly: Jeremiah 17:9-10

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 8:35, 37-39

Song of Renewal

"Lamb of God"Hansen/Kauflin/LaChance

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

Scripture Reading: *John 15:18–20, 26-27 (ESV)*

Prayer

The Sermon

"Witnesses"

Song of Communion

"How Great is Our God".Tomlin/Reeves/Cash

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

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

Holy Communion

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

Parting Hymn

"Holy Spirit".Getty/Townend

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.

- Our witness must flow from and bear the marks of Christ's mercy for lost sinners.³
- While there was a uniqueness to the testimony of the original disciples as Jesus' apostles, the Holy Spirit continues to witness through our testimony today.

To Tell the Truth

Will the Real Christian Please Stand Up

- The Spirit of God empowers us to tell the truth. To tell the truth, we need to be honest about sin.
- We must not act as if we have it all together and we've got it figured out. Instead, we must be honest about our own brokenness, weakness, and failure.
- The Holy Spirit helps us share this truth—difficult truth about sin and judgment—with a humble kindness that is compelling to others.
- To testify about Jesus requires honesty about sin and a willingness to be rejected.
- When we fear rejection by the world, we refuse to be identified with Jesus.⁴

Don't stop witnessing. If you've been silent, start speaking now. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help you share the truth about him.

¹Phillips, R. D. (2014). *John* (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.; 1st ed., Vol. 2, p. 324). P&R Publishing.

²Phillips, R. D. (2014). *John* (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.; 1st ed., Vol. 2, p. 325). P&R Publishing.

³Phillips, R. D. (2014). *John* (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.; 1st ed., Vol. 2, p. 327). P&R Publishing.

⁴Carter, M., & Wredberg, J. (2017). *Exalting jesus in john* (Jn 15:26–27). Holman Reference.

The Spirit's Witness

We are a body for witness.

We are called together to be mature and edified, that is taught and built up, that we might be a witness to the world.

How does the Holy Spirit bear his witness through us?

- Jesus names the Spirit “the Helper,” which in Greek is the paraclete which speaks of One who is called to our side with empowering help and who calls out to us on Christ’s behalf.
- Jesus refers to the Spirit as “the Spirit of truth.” The Spirit came into the world not only that the truth might be revealed and known but that it might conquer by the inward persuasion that he alone can impart.¹
- Jesus spoke of the relationship between the Spirit’s mission and the mission of Christ and his Father: *“I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father” (John 15:26).*
- The Spirit would also provide a subjective witness to the souls of men and women. The Spirit’s witness would be not only to man but also in man.²

The Apostles' Witness

Jesus immediately linked the witness of the Holy Spirit to the witness that the disciples would themselves bear to the world. Christ has provided for himself the potent testimony of eyewitnesses who lived closely with him for three years. The things written in the New Testament are not attested by hearsay, but as the true record of men who were present and had every reason to be truthful.

Jesus' teaching on the witness of the Spirit and the apostles provides us with at least three applications.

- A Christian witness today must likewise be a testimony to the person of Christ in his glory as the divine Son and the work of Christ centered on his humble sacrifice to atone for our sins. Our witness must therefore not be to a Christian lifestyle, to our own experiences, or to our opinion of current affairs, but must center on the biblical testimony to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events

TODAY, November 13 12:15-1:00 P.M. Sunday School Reorganization Meeting in the Conference Room upstairs for current staff and anyone interested in being involved in our Sunday School as a teacher, assistant, care-giver, or prayer partner.

Saturday, November 19 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast
At the home of Pastor Rick

Sunday, November 20 4:00 P.M. Coventry-Warwick Community **Thanksgiving Service** held at Calvary Christian Center
426 Laurelwood Rd. Pottstown, PA 19465

DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for their baby who should be arriving soon.
- Pray for the college students they are discipling.

CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Pray as they begin training and are being mentored for a marriage coaching program in November.

Crossing Cultures International: David and Mindy Nelson Guatemala

Ray McKenzie arrived in Guatemala this week. Please pray for . . .

- He will preach two sermons at the Guatemala Baptist Convention and speak at the Pastors' Conference. His wife, Sandra, will lead the convention ladies in Bible Study from November 15-16.
- Pray for Ray, as he will lead two Teacher Training Workshops (TTW) over the next two weeks and train new teachers.
- His next two weeks will be filled with ministry projects and many opportunities to build new relationships and forge new partnerships.
- Pray that God will produce fruit from their labor.



Pro-Life Prayer

WOMEN HAVING ABORTION FORCED UPON THEM

Sometimes a woman finds herself in a position where she has little or no choice regarding her unplanned pregnancy. Whether it comes from the father or a family member, she hears that she must obtain an abortion or she will have nowhere to live or find herself abandoned in other ways. Pray that these women would find help through a local pregnancy resource center. Ask that God would send loving Christians to welcome these women into their lives and their homes. Pray that those pressuring them would be changed from the inside out and would instead choose life.

Prayer/Praise.November 13, 2022

- Pray for Rhonda Clark’s father, who has malignant bladder cancer. Cancer has spread to his muscles. Pray for healing and strength for Rhonda and her family.
- Pray for Dawn Fleetman’s father, Bill. His knees gave out, and he was admitted to the Pottstown Hospital. Pray for wisdom to find out the cause.
- Pray for Karlene, a friend of a co-worker of Dawn. She has a terminal illness and is waiting to go home to be with the Lord.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins as she recovers from the effects of COVID.
- Pray for Christine Wesoloski, friend of Donna Jenkins, who is in the 4th stage of breast cancer. Her stepfather has dementia. Pray for healing for Christine through her surgeries and treatments and her family as they care for her stepfather.
- Pray for Dionne and Jordan Mace and Sam Mace, as they care for Sam. Pray for God’s wisdom and guidance for the doctors associated with Sam’s care. Pray for God’s strength for their family.
- Pray for Fred and Lisa, friends of Donna Jenkins. Pray they have successful surgeries, and they would be able to have help caring for Ashley. Pray for God’s healing strength for their family.
- Praise that Lorraine Blanski’s nephew, Jason, has his glasses, and his vision is much better now. His shunt surgery was a success. Pray for continued healing for Jason.
- Pray for Tim Li, from Taiwan, as he attends Conestoga Christian School.
- Pray for Ashley Adams and her friend, Hannah, who are on a short-term mission trip to the Texas/Mexican border from November 10th to the 13th. Pray for God’s strength for Ashley and Hannah as they build relationships, pray, and evangelize to these women and children.
- Pray for Macie and Cassie Frame, who are all settled in their apartment and working in California. Pray for their safety and that Cassie can find a church.
- Pray for Jill Aument, who needs to have an eye procedure done one time per month for three months, for bleeding and fluid behind her eye. Pray for continued healing for Jill following this procedure.
- Praise God that Austin is making progress through the mental and physical challenges that he has been through to this point. Praise that he has two prosthetic hands and one prosthetic below his left knee. Austin attends school five half days a week now. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God’s strength for Austin.
- 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 the families.
- 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 for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing from cancer.

Message

Witnesses

John 15:18–20, 26–27 (ESV)

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Introduction

In the final chapter of his Farewell Discourse, Jesus prepared his disciples for martyrdom.

John 16:1 (ESV) “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

It is not mere coincidence that the Greek word for *witness* is *martyr*, the word in our language that identifies one who loses his life for his religious testimony.

“We are but of yesterday, and we have filled every place among you—cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market-places, the very camp, tribes, companies, palace, senate, forum—we have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods.”

Tertullian

Where did it all begin?

The great work of church is bearing a gospel witness that changes the world. This witness began with Christ’s band of weak and unimpressive disciples.