

## May: Fervent Prayer

### Week One:

Prayer can often be seen as something we do, but we must remember that prayer isn't just something to add to our spiritual to-do list, but the invitation from our Heavenly Father to draw close to Him in dependence and gratitude. This month we will have different opportunities to reflect on God's goodness and mercy in prayer.

Pray that you would have an open and teachable heart when it comes to prayer. Pray that God would help you evaluate where you need to grow in dependence and gratitude for all He has done in your life. Pray through *Jeremiah 33:3* and *Hebrews 4:14-16* and rejoice that you have intimate access to the Father in Christ Jesus.

Throughout the month we would encourage you to go through the **Growing in Fervent Prayer** packet at [harvestdesmoines.org/prayer](http://harvestdesmoines.org/prayer). This packet can be a useful resource in worshiping God through prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication.

### Week Two:

We are warned by God throughout His word that in this world we will face trials, tribulations, and temptations. We are not left without hope in this battle and one of the greatest resources we have is seeking help from our Heavenly Father in prayer. We can have great hope knowing that while we still face the fallout of living in a sin-cursed world, Jesus has overcome the world and in Him we can stand firm against the lies of the enemy.

*Romans 8* has so many encouraging truths that can help us stand firm when the lies of the enemy or doubts about God's goodness try to overtake us. A few of these specifically related to prayer are in verse 26-30. We are told that when we don't have the words to pray, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, because the Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God. Pray that you would be growing in dependence on the Holy Spirit in prayer and that you would be bold in seeking grace and mercy in your time of need. Pray that God would help you respond well to trials and suffering because God uses hard circumstances to conform his children to the image of Christ.

### **Week Three:**

Corporate prayer gives us the incredible opportunity to share with one another how we have been seeing glimpses of God's glory and to continue growing in dependence upon Him together. One of our foundations as a church is that we would be a people of Fervent Prayer, or the passionate pursuit of our Heavenly Father. We do this by drawing close to Him and seeking strength and wisdom for all that we face.

This week gather with your family, small group, or another friend in Christ and spend time together seeking the Lord and lifting up one another's praises and petitions. Some examples of other things you can be praying for this week are wisdom in difficult circumstances, boldness in living on mission, that our church leaders would faithfully endure and shepherd our church well, for brothers and sisters who are suffering in our church, for godly comfort in sorrow, giving thanks for the ways God has blessed you and confessing to one another how you need to grow in putting off sin and pursuing the Lord.

### **Week Four:**

God invites us to come to Him with all of our fears and joys in prayer, but petitioning for things that we want should not be the entire focus of our prayers. As a part of his Kingdom people we are called in Matthew 6:10 to pray for our God's kingdom to come and will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

As Christians we have a great hope that one day, Jesus will return to finish judging His enemies and will fully inaugurate His rule over all things. Pray for the fulfillment of the Great Commission and our involvement in it; that we would be bold in sharing the hope of the gospel and that our evangelism would be effective. Praying for the Kingdom also involves praying that the church would be growing in unity and holiness and praying for the fulfillment of Jesus' rule over all nations.

You can find more information on what it looks like to pray for the Kingdom and why we are called to on Day 4 of the **Growing in Fervent Prayer** packet.

*Verses to pray through: Matthew 6:7-13; Matthew 28:19-20; Psalm 133, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Philippians 2:1-11*