

Light the Highway Prayer Guide

Week Two

This week's focus will be on holiness in the church.

Day One

Jesus prays in **John 17:15-17, 19, 21**:

*"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them** by your truth. Your word is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."*

The truth of God as contained in scripture has the supernatural power to sanctify us when we apply it to our lives. There is a truth revealed to us in these powerful verses that precedes the call for unity in the church—If the church isn't sanctified and holy, there can never be any true unity. Sanctification and holiness precede biblical unity. As I said earlier, judgment must begin at the house of God before we can point our finger at the sin of our nation.

As we begin this week of focus on the church and holiness, let's spend time seeking His face for His power to sweep through congregations and expose sin. This is not a time for witch hunts, but for God, Himself, to manifest His holiness in our midst.

We often repent for the sin of disunity, but perhaps the disunity comes out of a need for sanctification. Examples of such disunity are jealousy of one another, backbiting, and gossip. Ask the Lord to cleanse the church. Young people, seek the Lord for reconciliation in your youth groups, women's groups with women's groups.

You may have been hurt through a church situation in particular. Forgive and nail those things to the cross. Perhaps you have been hurt while in a youth group and want to forgive. Ask God to do a deep healing of pain from the past so you can pray with a pure heart for a move of holiness in the church. Pastors, you may need to forgive members of your congregations who have hurt you or your families. Be led by the Spirit in this session and nail the things that have hurt you to the cross.

Day Two

*But the wisdom that is from above is **first pure**, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruit, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:17-18*

We cannot know true wisdom without purity. As the church goes through a time of cleansing, then we will yield good fruit without hypocrisy.

Today let's focus on ways that the church as a whole has been seen as hypocritical to the world. Have a time of repentance for our moral failures, legalism and judgmentalism. Look back into the history of the move's of God and see ways that they broke down through moral failures.

Let's remove all the stones that the world can throw at us, the church, because we say one thing and do another.

Make lists of these things and nail them to the cross. Also, make a trip around the Ten Commandments and repent for anyway the church, herself, has broken them.

Day Three

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Fathers is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27

“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well, but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.” James 2:8

This is the day where we look to see if we are holy in our attitudes towards the poor. Have we been seen as a church that cared for only those within our own walls? How are we faring as far as the “royal law” of loving our neighbor as ourselves? It is interesting that the book of James connects visiting orphans and widows with keeping oneself unspotted from the world.

Even if we have cared for the needs of the poor in general, have we ever asked God to give the church a plan to eradicate systemic poverty or do we see that as the job of secular governments? Cry out to the world for God to give a plan to the church so that our people are not poor, take care of the widows and the poor, and then come to a Deuteronomy 15:4 position: ***“Except when there may be no poor among you; for the Lord will greatly bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance.”***

If you have not seen this as your role as a believer or that of the church, repent and nail that to the cross. Pray for pure and undefiled religion for the church.

Day Four

And with many other words he warned them, and he pleaded with them, “Save yourself from this corrupt generation”. Acts 2:40 NIV

This is the day to focus on praying that God will separate us from the ways we have become corrupted through interface with the world. We are to be the leaven that changes society, however, in many cases our actions are little or no better than those of the world. In truth, rather than be the holy standard for others to follow, we are only a little better than the world.

The Lord is calling for a radical separation. For some, they are making vows of a Nazarite not to drink any strong drink, and to act holy in all their ways as a sign that they want a complete cutting off of the ways of their generation of addiction. Let the Holy Spirit lead you in your prayers.

As the Lord to show you if your daily actions reflect your love for the Lord. What movies do you want and what entertains you? If you have watched movies with bad language, been entertained by crude and ungodly humor, let the Lord speak to your heart. This is not about legalism but a love walk. The old adage, "Would you be comfortable doing what you are doing if Jesus was sitting beside you?" is relevant here. What will you do or give up to see the nation changed?

Nail those things to the cross that you have been doing that shows no difference from the world. Repent for any films you have seen that are sexually explicit, violence for violence sake or full of bad language. For others, check for Harry Potter films that promote witchcraft, vampire movies, or other horror-type films.

Perhaps you want to clean out your DVDs and bring them to the prayer room as a sign you are giving them up and throwing them away there. Others might want to bring video games that are not worthy of a holy generation to be playing.

Day Five

"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; for if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" I Peter 4:17

Today let's focus on sin within the **leadership of the church** as well as among church members. Pray that any pastors or Christian leaders who are in homosexuality, adultery, siphoning money out of the church, or any other sin against God will come into repentance or be exposed. The Lord wants a pure and holy church. As I said earlier in the preamble to the 35 Days of Holiness, we cannot point our finger at the world if the same sin is in our own lives.

Repent for the sins of leaders who stand in the pulpit and sin in private as this pollutes the church and causes disgrace to the cities where they sin. God has said through the mouths of many prophets and Christian leaders that He is going to deal with those who defile the pulpits of the land.

Day Six

“So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault founding him. Then these men said, ‘We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.’” Daniel 6:4

Today let’s focus on the church in the **marketplace**. Ask God to bring a cleansing to all believers everywhere in their business practices. It is sad to say that many people claim they would rather do business with an unbeliever than a believer because of how poor the ethics Christians have exhibited in the marketplace. Some have even participated in corrupt practices such as paying bribes or taking kickbacks. Others have not paid their taxes to the government.

We need the excellence of Daniel exhibited in the marketplace. Repent according to II Chronicles 7:14 and ask God to heal the world’s view of Christians in the marketplace.

Day Seven

“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira, his wife, sold a possession. But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?’” Acts 5:1,3

Today’s focus is on the **fear of the Lord**. The Bible says that the Fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. Psalms 19:7.

Do you fear God in a healthy way? There needs to be a return to the fear of the Lord in the land. We feel that we can break His commandments and there will be no consequences. Intercede that a godly fear will fall once again on the church as in the days of the Cane Ridge Revival where both saints and sinners fell under the convicting power of God and gave up their sin. We need preaching against sin to come into the pulpits once again so people will know God.

Ask God to reveal ways during the watch in which there has been no fear of the Lord in the church. Also, ask Him to show you where we have condoned or been silent about wrongs in our society as well as in our own lives. Write them down and nail them to the cross.