

SIM
By Prayer



JARS OF CLAY



2016 - 10 DAYS
OF
PRAYER
FOR
REST AND RENEWAL



Jars of Clay - 10 Days of Prayer for Rest and Renewal Taken from 2 Corinthians 4 (NLT)



Life in mission is challenging. We face threats of many kinds: terrorism, imprisonment, health issues, fatigue, indifference, or just feeling unwelcome in the difficult places to which God is calling us. It can be a struggle not to give up. The following 10 Days of Prayer are based upon Paul's words to the Corinthians about such difficulties, realities that he faced throughout his life and ministry. Paul concludes in **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**:

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

We also understand that repentance is essential for renewal. Use the Prayers for renewal in keeping with what we read in **Psalms 51:1-2; 16-17**:

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin... You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

Use these verses and our core values as a basis to pray for our missionaries around the world in the various contexts listed.

DAY 1 - Thurs 5 May

Context: Those who are living and dying without hearing the good news.

Core Value - Committed to Biblical Truth: We are committed to biblical truth and joyfully affirm historic, evangelical Christianity. With courage, we declare to the nations the good news of new life in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this..

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Prayer for renewal:

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on in our lives as if there were no God and we fall short of being credible witnesses to you. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so that we may be your witnesses in our world. Remind us to be who you would have us to be, in all of our callings and vocations.

DAY 2 - Fri 6 May

Context: There is a spiritual battle – pray for people whose eyes are blinded.

Core Value - A People of Prayer: Prayer is foundational in our life and ministry. "By Prayer" we praise God, seek his direction, request resources, and call upon the Holy Spirit to empower our ministries.

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Prayer for renewal:

James 5:16

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Psalms 103:8-10

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

DAY 3 - Sat 7 May

Context: Truth is fulfilled in Jesus, not in other religions, other gods or in ourselves.

Core Value - Mission Focused: We are committed to the urgent and unfinished task of making disciples of Jesus Christ in all nations. In doing this we desire to work in loving, trusting, interdependent relationships with churches and other partners who share our vision.

You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Prayer for renewal:

Psalm 51:1-2, 7

Have mercy on me, O God,

Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.

Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

John 12:25-26

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

DAY 4 - Sun 8 May

Context: Our weakness in times of difficulty.

Core Value - Dependent on God: "By Prayer" and in faith we depend on God for the provision of all our needs. We will demonstrate diligence, integrity, sharing, and accountability in cultivating and using the resources God provides.

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

2 Corinthians 4:7

Prayer for renewal:

We do not presume to approach you, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness or strength, but in your all-embracing love and mercy. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your table, but it is your nature always to have mercy that we may evermore dwell in you and you in us.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

DAY 5 - Mon 9 May

Context: Joy in suffering, evacuations, diseases, terrorism, civil war and death.

Core Value - A Christ-Like Community: We desire to be a transforming community dedicated to becoming like Christ in love, servanthood, holiness, and obedience to the Father. We believe that following Christ's example means sacrifice, sometimes hardship, and perhaps even death.

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

Prayer for renewal:

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you and to one another, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

DAY 6 - Tues 10 May

Context: The persecution of the Church worldwide.

Core Value - Church-centered: We are committed to being a mission that begins, nurtures, and equips churches to be the expression of Christ in their communities and to reach out with cross-cultural missionary vision and action.

Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you. 2 Corinthians 4:11-12

Prayer for renewal:

Most merciful God, we humbly admit that we need your help. We confess that we have wandered from your way: we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right. You alone can save us. Have mercy on us: wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others. Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit that we may live as disciples of Christ. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

DAY 7 - Wed 11 May

Context: Serving together in mission.

Core Value - A Learning, Growing Community: We believe in the worth and giftedness of each person in SIM and of those we seek to serve. We practice the giving and receiving of discipleship, life-long learning, consultative leadership, mutual development, and training as enduring disciplines.

But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

2 Corinthians 4:13-15

Prayer for renewal:

Lord, please forgive our sins, and set us free from them. We confess to the sin of pride: We have been sure of our own goodness and importance and have looked down on others. Help us to appreciate the true worth of other people. We confess to you our sins and we ask for your forgiveness. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.

DAY 8 - Thurs 12 May

Context: Commitment to timely, creative, strategic ministries to the lost.

Core Value - Responsive to Our Times: Responsive to our times — we will respond with creativity and courage to evolving needs and opportunities under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To be effective and relevant, our ministries, priorities, and structures are subject to ongoing evaluation and adaptation.

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Prayer for renewal:

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

DAY 9 - Fri 13 May

Context: Commitment to preaching the gospel in the hard to reach places.

Core Value - Concerned about Human Needs: We humbly acknowledge that the ultimate human need is to know God. We also believe that he has called us to compassionate, holistic service in this broken world by alleviating suffering, fostering development, and effecting change in society.

The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, because the Lord has chosen me to bring good news to poor people. He has sent me to heal those with a sad heart. He has sent me to tell those who are being held and those in prison that they can go free. He has sent me to tell about the year of the Lord's favor, and the day our God will bring punishment. He has sent me to comfort all who are filled with sorrow.

Isaiah 61:1-2

Prayer for renewal:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

DAY 10 - Sat 14 May

Context: Worshipping and serving God through multi-cultural teams.

Core Value - Strengthened through Diversity: We are intentionally interdenominational, international, and multiethnic. We believe this expresses the unity of the body of Christ in the world. We believe we will be more effective in ministry as we incorporate the richness of cultural diversity in SIM and celebrate our oneness in Christ.

"And those from a strange land who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him and to love His name, to be His servants, and keep the Day of Rest holy, and keep My agreement, even those I will bring to My holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and gifts will be received on My altar. For My house will be called a house of prayer for all people." The Lord God Who gathers the people of Israel from other lands says, "I will gather yet others to them, besides those already gathered."

Isaiah 56:6-8

Prayer for renewal:

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song with these words:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Psalm 117:1-2

Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise him, all you people of the earth. For his unfailing love for us is powerful; the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. Praise the Lord!

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!

"My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Global Day of Prayer: Sunday, 15 May (Pentecost)

<http://www.globaldayofprayer.com/>