



# Rooted: Discovering the Gospel Together

## COMMITMENT 6 AND 7

*Pray with Dependence on God's Sovereign Grace & Inspire Worship of God,  
for the Glory of God*

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### ASK WITH CONFIDENCE

#### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

#### MATTHEW 7:7-11

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

### The Catechism on Prayer

*Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 45*

#### **Q116. Why is prayer necessary for Christians?**

**A116.** Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us. And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who constantly and with heartfelt longing ask God for these gifts and thank God for them.

#### **Q117. What is the kind of prayer that pleases God and that he listens to?**

**A117.** First, we must from the heart call upon the one true God only, who has revealed himself in his Word, for everything he has commanded us to pray. Second, we must thoroughly know our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence. Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord, as God has promised us in his Word.

### Why We Can Ask Boldly

**1.** God is who He says He is. He is infinite and perfect in all His attributes. He knows everything. He can do anything. He can be everywhere all the time. He doesn't sleep or slumber. He never grows weary or faint. There are no limits to His power, and nothing is above His dominion and authority. He is always watching, and He is always attentive. Everything good that we can ask of God, He is able to do. Therefore, we can ask with bold confidence in Him.

2. God always keeps His promises and accomplishes all that He sets out to do. Therefore, we can boldly ask Him to do what He has promised to do and to accomplish His purposes that were established before the foundation of the world.
3. Bold prayers are only possible “in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Paul tells us, “we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.” Because we have such “a great high priest,” the writer of Hebrews encourages us to approach the throne of grace with confidence, so “that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Godly boldness in prayer comes from the awareness that we have no merit of our own.

— *Big, Bold, Biblical Prayers for the Next Generation*, David Michael (Truth78)

## Prayers from Scripture

### EPHESIANS 3:14–20

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

### COLOSSIANS 1:9–12

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

### PHILIPPIANS 1:9–11

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

### JOHN 17:15–17

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

**JOHN 17:3**

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

**EPHESIANS 2:8-9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Prayers from the Book of Common Prayer**

*Anglican Church in North America, Book of Common Prayer (2019)*

**For Children**

*O Lord Jesus Christ, who took little children into your arms and blessed them: Bless the children of this family, that they may grow up in godly fear and love. Give them your strength and guidance day by day, that they may continue in your love and service to their lives' end. Grant this, O blessed Savior, for your own Name's sake. Amen.*

**For the Family**

*Merciful Savior, you loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus, hallowing their home with your sacred presence: Bless our home, we pray, that your love may rest upon us, and that your presence may dwell with us. May we all grow in grace and in the knowledge of you, our Lord and Savior. Teach us to love one another as you have commanded. Help us to bear one another's burdens in fulfillment of your law, O blessed Jesus, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**For Relatives and Friends**

*O Loving Father, we commend to your gracious keeping all who are near and dear to us. Have mercy upon any who are sick, and comfort those who are in pain, anxiety, or sorrow. Awaken all who are careless about eternal things. Bless those who are young and in health, that they may give the days of their strength to you. Comfort the aged and infirm, that your peace may rest upon them. Hallow the ties of kindred, that we may help and not hinder one another in all the good works that you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**For the Care of Children**

*Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom so to train them, that they may love all that is true, and pure, and lovely, and of good report, following the example of their Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**For Families**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you set the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and true godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy matrimony, have been made one flesh; turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be joined to one another with bonds of loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **For a Child, or for a Birthday**

*Watch over your child N., O Lord, as his days increase; bless him and guide him, and keep him unspotted from the world. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls; and in his heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **For Schools, Colleges, and Universities**

*Almighty God, by your gift alone we come to wisdom and true understanding: Look with favor, we pray, on our universities, colleges, and schools, that knowledge may be increased among us, and wholesome learning flourish and abound. Bless those who teach and those who learn; and grant that in humility of heart they may ever look to you, the fountain of all wisdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Big, Bold, Biblical Prayers for the Next Generation**

*by David Michael (Truth78)*

### **500 Trillion Years from Now**

*Dear Father,*

We join these parents in giving heartfelt thanks to You for the gift of these children. Out of nothing, You have brought this moment and these children into being. With a mighty, sovereign hand, You have sustained every breath and every heartbeat and everything else that keeps these children and all the rest of us alive and growing. We ask, LORD, that You will keep sustaining and protecting so that 70, 80, 100 years from now, each of these children could look back on a long, productive, and fruitful life.

Even more LORD, we ask that You accomplish for these children all that needs to happen in their lives so that 500 trillion years from now they are in the shelter of the Most High—resting in the shadow of the Almighty, and looking ahead to an eternity of joy and satisfaction in You.

Make these next decades of their lives count for eternity. Claim them as Your children, LORD! Early in life, set their minds to study Your Word. Show them Your salvation, and lead them to a knowledge of the Truth. Give them a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Fill their lives with godliness and dignity. Make them fighters, LORD—fighters in the fight of faith. Even if a thousand fall at their side and 10,000 at their right hand, keep their eyes fixed on You. Keep them well clothed in spiritual armor. Be their Shield and Fortress. Keep the enemy's weapons from penetrating their souls.

Make these years count for the Kingdom, too. Make these children instruments of revival in the 21st century. So shine on them that they may reflect Your glory to the world. So dwell in them that Your power flows out of their lives to work miracles in their generation. Through these children, give their generation gifted teachers of the Word and bold witnesses to the power of Christ.

No one can deny the impact these parents will have on their children, for better or for worse. Oh God, give them everything they need to make it for the better. Help them to be what You have called them to be as parents. May these children grow up in functional homes. Fill these parents with Your Spirit. Anoint them with power for this calling that You have placed upon their lives. Give them discernment and wisdom for every situation. Make them examples of godly manhood and womanhood in the home and the world.

LORD, You have sworn, by Yourself, and by Your own name, that You will bear us up as on eagle's wings. As parents, and as a congregation entrusted with these children, we cast ourselves on You and ask that You lead these children, and that You lead us. Lead us into perfect holiness. Lead us to glory. Lead us to the Kingdom that is yet to come so that 500 trillion years and beyond we will still be declaring, as we do now, glory to the Father, glory to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit, and as saints triumphant through all the ages long, we will still be singing that eternal song, May Jesus Christ be Praised.

In that great name, we pray. Amen!

### **Reigning with Christ in Everlasting Joy**

*Almighty God,*

We thank You for the gift of these children, and for these parents who recognize that from You and through You and to You are all things, including these children.

You already know these children better than any of us do, and that will always be so. Though hidden from us, they have not been hidden from You since they were first conceived in Your mind. Your eyes saw them at conception. You created the very core of their beings. You knit them together in their mothers' wombs. You ordained their last breath, even before they took their first. You know the very second they fall asleep and the instant they wake. You know every thought they think, every move they make, and every detail of their lives today, tomorrow, and for the months and years to come.

Before a sound, word, or cry ever vibrates their vocal cords, You know it completely. Lord, it is our earnest prayer that those vocal cords vibrate praise to You from hearts that overflow with affection for You.

We pray that these children be given everything they need to serve You faithfully and fruitfully all of their days. We ask that they would come to know the fear of the Lord, and spend their days hungering for You, trusting in You, and consumed with a passion for You.

We ask You, dear Father, that Your Word would dwell richly in their hearts, as well as in their heads. Let it season their speech and influence every dimension of their lives. Give them lives that are excellent in conduct, and give them character that has the aroma of Christ. Give them thoughts that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and of good repute. Please give them children and grandchildren and great grandchildren who are blessed of God, mighty in faith, and fervent in prayer.

And, Lord Jesus Christ, on that day when night shall be no more, let them see Your face and reign with You in joy forever and ever. Give these parents and this congregation everything we need to be faithful to the calling that is upon us for Jesus' sake, and for the exultation of His name, and for the joy of the generations to come, we pray. Amen!

### **We Ask for More!**

*Almighty God,*

We praise You and bless the day that You spoke these children into being, gave them the breath of life, and now have sustained them to this moment. This is no small thing You have done. This is no insignificant blessing. But Lord, with all humility, and with all the confidence that we have in Christ Jesus, we ask for more.

We ask that they will die to the sin nature that they have inherited as sons and daughters of Adam. Instead of being children of wrath, dead in their trespasses and sins, we ask that You raise them up to new life in Christ Jesus.

In Jesus' name, we ask that You lead them out of darkness and into Your glorious light. We ask that You rescue them from the kingdom of Satan and make them citizens of Your unshakable Kingdom. Let them be poor in this world, if they must, but make them rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom that You have promised to all that love You.

We want them to desire You more than anything else because You are infinitely more than anything else that they need. There is no limit to Your goodness. Your riches are unsearchable. You have every good thing within Your reach, and Your supply never runs out. O God, be their portion forever. Draw them close to Yourself, and hold them secure with the cords of Your love.

May there be for these children no rivals to Your throne. May they have no other god but God Almighty. May they have no treasure but Jesus Christ their Savior. Let no spirit's power have any dominion over them except the power of Your Holy Spirit working righteousness and peace within them. Capture every thought, every desire, every dream, every word, and every act. And let them be under Your glory and sovereign purposes in their lives. Let them live and move and have their being in You.

Reign in their lives. May every body, soul, and spirit be dedicated completely to You. Sit on the throne of every life. Rule them, and may the life they live prove that they follow Jesus Christ alone as their Lord.

Use them to flood this land with streams of righteousness. Shine on them so they can reflect Your light to this fallen world. Dwell in them so that out of them will come the power of Your life to influence the world. May those who laugh and sneer at them and say that the Gospel has lost its power be made foolish by the wisdom of the Most High God at work in and through them.

## Inspire Worship of God, for the Glory of God

### THE HEBREW ACROSTIC OF PSALM 145

*Commitment 7 — Inspire worship of God, for the glory of God. Psalm 145 is an acrostic: in Hebrew, each verse begins with the next letter of the alphabet, A to Z, as if to say the praise of God fills every letter we have. The Hebrew text omits a verse for the letter Nun; it is supplied here from ancient manuscripts, bracketed within verse 13.*

| LETTER               | V. | TEXT                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aleph א</b>       | 1  | I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.                                                                                         |
| <b>Bet ב</b>         | 2  | Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.                                                                                                |
| <b>Gimel ג</b>       | 3  | Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.                                                                                 |
| <b>Dalet ד</b>       | 4  | One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.                                                                          |
| <b>He ה</b>          | 5  | On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.                                                                           |
| <b>Vav ו</b>         | 6  | They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.                                                                          |
| <b>Zayin ז</b>       | 7  | They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.                                                             |
| <b>Het ח</b>         | 8  | The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.                                                                                |
| <b>Tet ט</b>         | 9  | The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.                                                                                             |
| <b>Yod י</b>         | 10 | All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!                                                                            |
| <b>Kaf כ</b>         | 11 | They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,                                                                                            |
| <b>Lamed ל</b>       | 12 | to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.                                                               |
| <b>Mem / Nun מ נ</b> | 13 | Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] |
| <b>Samek ס</b>       | 14 | The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.                                                                                       |
| <b>Ayin ע</b>        | 15 | The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.                                                                                         |
| <b>Pe פ</b>          | 16 | You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.                                                                                                |
| <b>Tsade צ</b>       | 17 | The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.                                                                                                 |
| <b>Qof ק</b>         | 18 | The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.                                                                                        |
| <b>Resh ר</b>        | 19 | He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.                                                                            |
| <b>Shin ש</b>        | 20 | The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.                                                                                         |
| <b>Tav ת</b>         | 21 | My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.                                                              |



#### SEVEN COMMITMENTS

Embrace a biblical vision for the faith of the next generation.

Foster a robust partnership between church and home.

Teach the breadth and depth of the whole counsel of God.

Proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

Disciple the mind, heart, and will.

Pray with dependence on God's sovereign grace. — *tonight*

Inspire worship of God, for the glory of God. — *tonight*