

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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## MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Steve & Debbie Poston | Mexico

### PRAY

- For Debbie, who recently had a tumor removed from her spinal column.
- Pray that the Poston’s can find a building adequate to hold services for Iglesia Nueva Vida.

### PRAISE

- The construction on the the orphanage is steadily moving along.
- A young man, Fernando recently came to Christ at Capital.



Handout: 05/21/23

Study Date: 05/28/23

## The Prayer of Surrender

There was a time when heaven and earth existed in perfect harmony and God could survey his creation and call it “very good” (Gen. 1:31). Indeed, in the beginning everything in creation was working in beautiful harmony because only one will was operating in the universe, and that was the perfect will of God. However, the rebellion of Lucifer (Isa. 14:12–15) and the disobedience of our first parents (Genesis 3; Rom. 5:12–21) introduced other wills into the world, and this brought division and conflict between heaven and earth. In heaven, God’s will is always done by the angels and the saints in glory; but on earth, lost sinners, demons, and even God’s own people rebel against the Lord and want to have their own way.

God in his grace seeks to bring heaven and earth together, and he will never change his plan. He bridged the gulf between heaven and earth by sending three gifts to our rebellious planet: his inspired Word, his beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reveals the Son of God to us as we read the Word of God, and those who trust Jesus are born into the family of God and have the privilege of speaking to God in prayer. Prayer is a “partnership” between God and his church that enables him to accomplish his will on earth through the witness of his obedient people. The apostolic church put “prayer and the ministry of the word” first on their agenda (Acts 6:4), and so should the church today.

The immediate purpose of prayer is the accomplishing of God’s will on earth; the ultimate purpose of prayer is the eternal glory of God. This is why Robert Law wrote, “Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man’s will done in heaven, but for getting God’s will done on earth.” True prayer means more than simply asking for what we think we need and adding Jesus’s name to the list; it means praying as Jesus prayed. “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Matt. 26:39). Our Lord’s half-brother James understood this distinction and wrote, “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures” (James 4:3).

Again, consider Robert Law’s words above: “Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man’s will done in heaven, but for getting God’s will done on earth.” The believers praying on earth must be available for God to use them to help answer their prayers if that is his will. True prayer is a partnership between heaven and earth. The apostle Paul understood this important truth and frequently requested the churches to pray that God would accomplish his will in and through him. Even with all of his education, spiritual insight, and experience, Paul knew that he could not do his work alone.

Source: *On Earth as It Is in Heaven* by Warren Wiersbe

## KEY VERSE

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

*Your kingdom come.*

*Your will be done*

*On earth as it is in heaven.*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Matthew 6:10, 26:42; John 18:36; Romans 14:17**

**Understand God's Kingdom is Wherever God's Will Is Done**

1. What is your definition of prayer?
2. How can prayer be a partnership between God and His church to bring about God's will on earth?

**Tuesday: Matthew 11:29; Jeremiah 17:19; Psalm 32:8; Col. 1:9**

**Ask God to Direct You**

3. Our culture often tells us to "Follow our hearts". Why is this approach to life problematic?
4. How does God instruct you? How does He teach you in the way you should go?

**Wednesday: Matthew 6:33, 16:24; Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:13**

**Say Yes to God in Everything**

5. When God directs you, is it easy or difficult for you to say "yes" to his guidance? Why?
6. What does it look like to put Jesus first and your wishes second? What does it look like when you put yourself first and Jesus second?

**Thursday: Philippians 4:11-13; Proverbs 3:5-6; I Timothy 6:6-9**

**Learn to Be Content and Trust God with Your Future**

7. How would you rate your level of contentment right now? Why?
8. Why is contentment important? How does being discontent impact your connection with God?
9. What attributes of God make Him worthy to be trusted with your future?

**Friday: Matthew 9:35-38, 28:19-20; II Corinthians 5:16-21**

**Spread the Gospel to the Lost**

10. What does Jesus tell us to pray for in Matthew 9:38? How often do you pray for that?
11. How willing are you to be the answer to that prayer?
12. II Corinthians 5:20, refers to believers as ambassadors for Christ? What message has Christ our King given you to share?