

Deacon's Lesson
Centennial Celebration - Prayer Theme
July 2021

Special Prayer Focus for July: That God will grant us all the needed resources to sustain the church, build the body of Christ and continue to give to the poor and hungry.

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory to Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:19)

There is so much confusion in the world today. How does the church survive in such a chaotic society and in the midst of a worldwide pandemic (COVID-19) accompanied by high unemployment rates, blatant social injustices, and threats against our democracy and voting rights? In spite of it all, we must continue to trust God and believe that the Church is essential. It is the foundation of truth that has stood the test of time especially in the Black Community granting us hope, clarity, focus, and strength to endure. Most of all, Christ is the head of the Church, He controls every part of it and giving life, wisdom, and direction. There is nothing too difficult for our God. (Genesis 18:14)

As humans, we tend to panic when we feel that we don't have everything we need. This panic can cause us to not trust God and take matters into our own hands instead of praying to God. On the other hand, when we feel that we have everything we need, it creates temporary feelings of security and calmness in us. Remember Abraham and Sarah were way past the age of child bearing. Even though they took things into their own hands, God faithfully delivered them a son, just as he promised. We are far better off to trust God and rest in His promises.

Even though, we have been unable to congregate physically in the church, we continue to worship and receive the Word virtually. Our church members and friends continue to give of their time, talents, and treasures to sustain the work of the church. Most of our ministries remain functional along with a dynamic Church School Panel every Sunday morning and rich Bible studies Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer sessions. Christian Education, Retreats, and Super Saturdays continue. Autumn Fellowship still provides food to those in need. What does all of this say about our Lord and Savior? That He sustains His church and takes care of His own. He is loving, faithful and true to His Word. He is Jehovah

Jireh, the Lord our God who looks ahead and sees our need and provides even from unexpected sources. He will never leave us nor forsake us. (Hebrew 13:5)

Have you ever wondered how God desires you to respond to difficult life circumstances? Does He want you to be in a state of panic and stress, or does He enjoy it when you feel a sense of security and calmness rooted in Him rather than in man, the world, or material things? If you guessed trust in Him, you are absolutely correct! In fact, when we rest in the truth of Philippians 4:19, we can feel safe and secure, because we know that God loves us and cares for us. Therefore, every need we have will be met by God! So, the next time you feel panicky about a situation in life, remember that we serve a God who provides ALL we need!

Look at the birds of the air, do they not sow, nor reap nor gather in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? (Matthew 6:26)

In the meantime, pray that God will grant all the needed resources to sustain the church, build the body of Christ, and continue to give to the poor and hungry. Needed resources include not only financial, but also spiritual and human resources meaning Christian laborers to serve. We need dedicated and committed laborers. Pray that God will supply all the needed spiritual discipline, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to evangelize and further the kingdom of God. Pray daily for the spiritual motivation, stamina, perseverance, and commitment to give and minister to the poor and hungry. God is able to grant all of these things and more; exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think (Ephes. 3:20).

Prayer:

Oh Lord, we thank You for all of Your promises to us. We thank You for all You are allowing us to accomplish in this Pandemic. Lord, forgive us for the times we find ourselves lazy, apathetic, unmotivated, or feeling sorry for ourselves. Forgive us when we aren't reaching out to see what we can do to support others in this peculiar time in our lives. Lord we come to you humbly asking that You continue to bless us with the finances to continue to care for the poor, hungry, the hurting, and even to give scholarships to young people seeking higher education. Lord, bless us with spiritual discipline, focus, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to enable us to continue the work to build up the body of Christ. Lord, we need motivation and perseverance to

continue the work You have for us. You are our God who will supply all of our needs. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.