

Deacon's Lesson
Centennial Celebration - Prayer Theme
September 2021

Special Prayer Theme for September: That the love, peace and the wisdom of God will rule in our hearts as we live, serve, and work in the church and the community.

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." [John 15:12-13]

Unconditional love is the most needed grace that will provide spiritual and emotional sustenance in our world today. Love should be the guiding compass in all we say or do. We are all in the midst of challenging times and the Church is not exempt. How can the Church continue to serve the community in the middle of such unrest; political chaos, racial injustice, and the deadly Covid – 19 disease?

To serve effectively, it starts with having the love of God in our hearts and mutual love for each other. After all, God is love and He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. (John 3:16) Love is at the heart of Christian witnessing where there is a genuine concern not to see people perish.

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never fails. [1 Corinthians 13:7-8]

As Christians we should be at the forefront demonstrating the love of Christ in us by the way we live, serve others, and work. This often requires sacrifice at many levels, understanding, empathy, compassion, patience, and caring. At the same time, we grow and mature by caring for and nurturing one another especially when we are grounded in the Word of God. It has been said that we are the living epistles of Christ written in our hearts. This means that our true transformed lives should be modeled in our everyday lives especially before unbelievers. This may be the only Bible they will ever read. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

By delighting in the Word of God and the work of Christ and serving Him willingly, we can receive the peace of God, rest from unnecessary stress and anxiety, and calmness of spirit. Pertaining to our special prayer focus, this spiritual service of **serving, and working in the church and the community** is required of every Christian, not just church leaders. When we ask God, He grants us Godly wisdom to be prudent in the matters concerning the building of the Church body. Wisdom is the capacity to

understand, apply knowledge, and act wisely. Wisdom enables us to do and say the right thing. This spiritually edifies and develops the Christian body of believers.

“But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who gives all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” [James 1: 5]

“And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard our hearts in our minds in Christ Jesus.” [Philippians 4: 9]

Again, our Special Prayer Focus for this month is ***that the love, peace and the wisdom of God will rule in our hearts as we live, serve, and work in the church and the community.*** We are asking God for three things; love, peace, and wisdom. We are asking God to allow, love, peace, and wisdom, to govern our lives and deeds as we serve Him, work, and live not only in the church, but also in the community.

Paul expresses these ideas well in Colossians 3:16-18:

¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Prayer:

Father God, we thank You for all You have done for us. We thank You that we can come to You with our prayers and concerns. Lord, we ask that what we lack, You will supply. Let us remember that You are the ultimate provider who loves and cares for His children. We ask that You bless us with the wisdom to make daily decisions that align with your will. Help us to be Your hands in our communities and in the world at large as we serve the less fortunate, and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let us be mindful that we represent the One true God, so that our speech and conduct is always pleasing in Your sight. Bless us now Lord as we continue to do the work You sent us to do.

In the matchless name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray.

Amen.