



**Crossway North Church 2010  
Week of Prayer & Fasting Devotional  
February 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**

# INTRODUCTION

## The Cross in Prayer

**“At that day you shall ask in my name” (John 16:26)  
(taken from “My Utmost for His Highest”, The Golden book of  
Oswald Chambers, first published 1935)**

*“We are too much given to thinking of the Cross as something we have to get through; we get through it only in order to get into it. The Cross stands for one thing only for us – a complete and entire and absolute identification with the Lord Jesus Christ, and there is nothing in which this identification is realized more than in prayer.*

*‘Your Father knows what things you have need of, before you ask Him’  
Then why ask? The idea of prayer is not in order to get answers from God; prayer is perfect and complete oneness with God. If we pray because we want answers, we will get annoyed with God. The answers come every time, but not always in the way we expect, and our spiritual annoyance shows a refusal to identify ourselves with Our Lord in prayer; we are here to be living monuments of God’s grace.”*

We pray that as you seek the Lord in prayer and fasting this coming week that together we will grow in intimacy with the Father and together we will petition Him for His purposes to be fulfilled in our lives and community.

## DAY 1

### *“Come Follow Me”*

Matthew 4:19

“Come, follow me” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men”.....

- This is the calling of Jesus to His disciples – to leave what they were doing and follow him.
- This should be the highest priority of us as Christians.
- What does this mean to us? Do we place it on our high priority list?
  - To surrender our lives daily;
  - Committing our day to Him;
  - Thanking Him for this day and what it brings with it.
- A surrendered life is a life that is totally committed to following God and His word, no matter what the cost may be or the sacrifices that may be needed.
- Is there any area in your lives that you have not surrendered to God – maybe it could be finances, jobs, time, etc.?

#### **Suggested Prayer:**

Ask the Father to convict and show you through His Holy Spirit what those areas are, if any, and ask his forgiveness and strength to surrender those areas to Him.

## DAY 2

### ***“Treasuring the Word”***

*Psalm 119: 9-16*

*“How can a young man keep his way pure?*

*By living according to your word.*

*I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.*

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

*Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees.*

*With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.*

*I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.*

*I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.*

*I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”*

- The question from the above scripture is not “How can a young man become pure” as the purity of heart was impossible for a young man. Rather, the question is “How can he keep his way pure”?
- Purity of heart can be reached and maintained if we abide in fellowship with God’s word.
- Do you have a hunger and thirst for His word?

#### **Suggested Prayer:**

Ask Father God to open your eyes to see the treasures of His word and to shine His light on you as you walk His path.

## DAY 3

### ***“Put on the full armour of God”***

*Ephesians: 6:10-12*

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.*

*Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.*

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

- We live in a world where spiritual forces battle for the minds and hearts of Christians.
- It is Satan’s plan to distract us from Jesus and cause us to focus on the things of this world.
- Scripture tells us to stand firm, stand your ground and do not allow Satan to get a foothold.
- We don’t fight for victory but we fight from the position of victory because we know the victory has been won for us on the Cross.
- The scriptures also tell us the weapons that are available to us are:
  - Truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the word of God and prayer.

### **Suggested Prayer:**

Ask the Father, through the Holy Spirit, to remind you daily to put on the full armour of God to equip you to withstand the attack of the enemy.

## DAY 4

### *“Relationships/Unity”*

Ephesians: 4:2 & 3

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love; Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”.

- The Word tells us we should love one another, be patient and humble and endeavour to keep the unity.
- If we in the Church are all brothers and sisters in Christ, we have unity and love.
- In some churches there may be fractured relationships where there is perhaps unforgiveness etc. This can be like a disease, a cancerous growth and can spread.
- We need to be aware that to have a healthy Church, members of the Church should get along together and care for one another.
- How can we reach others if there is no unity?

#### **Suggested Prayer:**

Ask the Father to show you if there is any unforgiveness, anger or bitterness in your heart against anyone. If so, ask Him to give you the courage and to take steps to make things right.

## DAY 5

### ***“Serving / Servant hood”***

John 13:12-17

*“When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’ and rightly so, for that is what I am . Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them”.*

- Being a servant is one of the most important lessons for Christians, but unfortunately, we often have to work through gross misconceptions.
- To serve one another can be one of the most rewarding experiences and Jesus by his example of washing his disciples’ feet showed us what true servanthood is.
- Many of us may think that servant hood means losing ourselves in such a way that we become people without personality; people without original thinking ability; But when one serves this Master, the opposite is true: He makes us full, complete human beings filled with his own image, with his own amazing mentality.
- We can serve one another in a variety of ways, practical ways:
  - Cooking a meal when someone is sick;
  - Giving someone time out by offering to babysit or helping out with housework/shopping etc;
  - Driving somebody to an appointment;
  - In church we can help out in so many different ways by offering to be on the roster, etc.
- Try to think of ways you can help others and be a servant to others – it can be a very rewarding experience.

#### **Suggested Prayer:**

Ask Father God to give you a “servant heart” and ways of helping others.

## DAY 6

### “Our Community”

Nehemiah 1:3 & 4

*They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*

- Just as Nehemiah wept for Jerusalem, do we as God’s people here in Craigieburn, have that same passion?
- Are we willing to accept things as they are here in Craigieburn?
- Are we willing to commit to pray for our community and “stand in the gap”.
- Do we desire to see a better Craigieburn – where the people take pride in their community?
- There are many needs in our community i.e. we need a new shopping centre (just one example) and many other things and our heart’s desire should be to help Craigieburn to be seen as a community that is vibrant, alive and attractive.
- May Craigieburn be a community where people want to bring their families and enjoy life.

#### **Suggested prayer:**

Ask Father God to give us a fresh vision for our community and ways we can help make a difference and commit to praying for the council - the people in authority who make the decisions in our community to be used by God.

## DAY 7

### “Reaching Out”

Matt: 9, 37 & 38

*Then He said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field”.*

- The priority of the church of Jesus Christ is to reach those people that are living in darkness – why, because they do not know Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit has empowered us to be his witnesses in the entire world and that includes Craigieburn.
- The above scripture is very true for today as well – because the majority of the people out there do not know Jesus.
- We have amazing opportunities right here on our own doorsteps, but sometimes fear holds us back.
- Have we for example, connected with our neighbours;
- The local shops that we visit often;
- Our work colleagues;
- Family members that are not saved;
- One aspect of outreach that Crossway North has been doing well is our “Playgroups”– but we should not rest on our laurels.
- What are some other ways in which we can impact our community – it may just be making friends with our local shopkeepers and at other places in the community and getting involved.

#### **Suggested prayer:**

Pray for our Heavenly Father to give you a spirit of boldness and to be aware when he brings those people across our paths

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