Calling All of Us to Pray for Zion

By Ann Graham Lotz Adapted by Marilyn Middleton

Please join us as we pray through these Prayer Points:

1. We Are Compelled to Cry Out:

...By our need for Zion:

- The current spiritual condition of God's church
- The increase in fear among God's people causing separation instead of unity
- The lack of total submission to God and Jesus and genuine trust that when we surrender, we will be blessed.
- The judgmental and contentious attitudes toward others which has hindered the work.

...By God's promises:

"Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion: seek not for riches but for wisdom; and, behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich. Verily, verily I say unto you, Even as you desire of me, so shall it be unto you; and if you desire, you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation. Say nothing but repentance unto this generation: keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed." (DC 6:3a-4b)

2. We Are Confident as We Cry Out:

- God is seated on the throne of glory, in control of all things. (Isaiah 6:1)
- God hears and answers prayer. (Matthew 7:12)
- God sent Jesus to show us the way to redemption and eternal life (John 3:16)
- God forgives when we repent and seek forgiveness.

3. We are Contrite as We Cry Out:

- We do not acknowledge or seek the Holy Ghost to direct our thoughts and actions.
- We have worshipped gods of pleasure, wealth, technology, pornography, drugs, alcohol, entertainment, sex, and sports.
- We have put our hope in ourselves, trusting in our own knowledge, strength, and ability.
- We contend and argue when we disagree with our brothers and sisters instead of seeking common ground, reconciliation, and forgiveness. We are full of pride.
- We have not sought Christ as our example and Savior.

4. We Are Clear in Our Requests:

- Forgive us. Protect us. Defend us. Comfort us. Deliver us. Heal us. Humble us.
- Shine the light of Your glory into the darkness and pour out Your Spirit on all your children.
- Restore the years and the people we have lost due to our disobedience.
- Make us bold to rise up, to live for You, and to share the hope of Zion.
- Help us to repent of all our sins.

DC 63:9e "And that every man should take righteousness in his hands, and faithfulness upon his loins, and lift a warning voice unto the inhabitants of the earth; and declare both by word and by flight, that desolation shall come upon the wicked."

We have taught our children that You are not their Creator – that they simply evolved as cosmic accidents with no eternal purpose or significance. We have had generations of blessing and prosperity, yet we have refused to thank You, and instead give ourselves credit for what has come from Your hand. We have agreed with those who contradict Your Word. We have turned away from Your truth and believed lies. We have mocked Your image in which we were created as male and female. (Genesis 1:27) We have treated life casually. We have legalized infanticide, snuffing out the next generation for convenience and profit. Then we have covered our own shame and guilt by declaring we have the right to choose. We have redefined Your institution of marriage as though we are wiser than You. We have destroyed our environment selfishly. We have passed by the needy uncaringly. We have demanded entitlements defiantly. We have despised and abused those who are different than we are. We have not listened to those who have warned us of the consequences of turning away from You. We are so, so sorry! We claim Your promise that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:9)

And so our spirits rise up within us and throw off the smothering cloak of spiritual oppression and political correctness. We shout Your name. You are Yahweh. Jehovah – the personal God. (John 20:28) The great I AM – the eternal God. (John 8:58) The All-mighty – the Powerful God. (Matthew 28:17) You are Jesus. Savior. Immanuel. (Matthew 1:23) God with us, never to leave or forsake us. Your power has not been diluted or depleted over the ages. You are just as powerful... just as much in authority... as You were in Creation; in the deliverance of Your people from Egypt and in the parting of the Red Sea. You are the One who sends down the fire. (2 Chronicles 7:1) Who fells the giants. (I Samuel 17:1-50) Who makes wars to cease. (Psalm 46:9) Who raises the dead! (Luke 7:11-15; Ephesians 1:17-21)

Increase our faith until we trust You and Christ completely to rule in our lives. Help us forsake our will, the will of the flesh, and submit <u>ALL</u> to you. Humble us so much that we cling to you and are steadfast in acknowledging we can do all things through the power that we have through Christ.

DC 12:4b "and no one can assist in the work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care."

And to You we give all honor and glory.

We feel the encroaching evil. Darkness and gloom are descending. Those who hate us are infiltrating us. Those who are dedicated to destroying us are all around us. We pray in this time of so much chaos and deception that we will not be deceived by man's lies and Satan's cunning. Send the Holy Ghost to keep us on the straight and narrow path that leads to rest in our Father's care. Matthew 24:39 "And whoso treasureth up my words shall not be deceived."

So many people are afraid. They fear man more than they do You. We are being attacked by an invisible enemy. We are in a spiritual battle for the souls of men. We need to put on God's armor to fight the evil forces around us. We need your help, Lord, in knowing how to use these tools effectively. Ephesians 6:11-18

We come repentant for all the times we have chosen the lesser good. We ask for cleansing of all our sins – those known and unknown. Show us those things in our lives which keep us from a closer relationship with Thee. Genesis 5:1, 2 "And the Lord called upon man, by the Holy Ghost everywhere, and commanded them that they should repent; and as many believed in the Son, and repented of their sins, should be saved." Along with repenting we seek to be more obedient to Thy commandments. We make so many excuses as to why we don't immediately respond when we know what we should or should not do. Obedience to Your will is essential before we can be a part of Zion.

DC 102:2b "but behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands... do not impart of their substance... to the poor and afflicted among them, and are not unified according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom."

Merciful Savior, You have said that our land is chosen by You for Your purposes. We know it is because this is the land chosen for Zion, the New Jerusalem. We ask for what we don't deserve. We ask once again that you pour out Your Spirit upon us.

Please...

- Bless and raise up Your priesthood. Raise up another Jehoshaphat who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. (2 Chronicles 19:4-20:32) Raise up another Josiah who renewed the covenant of his people with You "to follow the Lord and keep His commands." (2 Chronicles 34:1-33) Help them to recognize the power You have given them as they seek Your Will and obey it. Awaken them to the mission given to the church in 1830 that we work toward the gathering of the House of Israel and that we take the Book of Mormon to the Lamanites. Forgive us for taking these things lightly. We are to assist the Lamanites in preparing this land for Zion. Show us how to share the Book of Mormon in such a powerful way that many will accept it and become active in working for Zion.
- Bless Your priesthood, women, and youth leaders all Your covenant people. Like Ezra of old, stir our hearts to be devoted to You first, then to the study and the preaching of Your Word. (Ezra 7:10) Raise up a generation of priesthood that You approve of as workmen who do not need to be ashamed because they correctly handle the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, 4:1-2) Fill them to overflowing with Your Spirit.
- Bless the women, Your handmaidens, who are responsible for teaching and nurturing the children who are a gift from You. Bless them who sacrifice many things to raise up a generation of believers and workers for Zion. Give them the vision, wisdom, and discernment to raise their children and grandchildren to be disciples, so that Truth will be passed to the next generation. Help them to expand their role with each other. They need to become a sisterhood of believers who support, encourage, teach, and help each other learn more of Your ways with a desire to be better witnesses of Christ, active in supporting Your priesthood, contributing their skills, talents, and lives to becoming like the five wise virgins who are ready to meet the bridegroom.
- Bless our families. The unloving spirits of infidelity, dishonesty, treachery, hypocrisy, immorality, pornography, and adultery are sweeping through our homes. The enemy seems to be attacking us on every level, on every front. A vast army of evil seems to have been unleashed against the home. Especially the homes and families of the Saints. We plead for Your divine protection. We plead for Your divine wisdom to counter the attacks so that our families are strengthened in their relationship with You. Be the center of our homes.
- Bless Your faithful, older warriors both male and female who have stepped in the gap to preserve this centerplace of Zion.
- Bless all who share the vision of Zion and who are actively seeking Your guidance and direction in the actions we take in our daily lives to accomplish Your will.

Lord of love, we even pray for You to bless our enemies. Yes, we do. Open their ears to the Truth. Open their minds to understand the Gospel. Open their hearts to long for Your love. Draw them to Yourself as moths are drawn to a flame. Your Light is stronger than their darkness. Bring them into the Light. Save them for all eternity. BUT if they reject You, we ask that You turn them on each other. Distract them. Destroy them. Prevent them from continuing to attack and persecute the righteous. Protect us from their evil plots and agendas. Open our lips to give Jesus to a world that is increasingly desperate. Use us as ambassadors of peace on earth by first leading people into a right relationship with You, then with each other. When the world around us unravels, help us to stand strong on our faith in You. And when people see us standing strong, help them to see You.

And now, God of grace, we ask once again that You send down Your Holy Spirit in fullness. Ignite the fire of revival in our own hearts. Protect us. Defend us. Comfort us. Empower us. Equip us "and let our whole labor be in Zion, with all our soul from henceforth." We pray until we prevail in prayer. (Peter 4:7) And we keep on waiting expectantly for Jesus and Zion, the City of God, to return to earth and to hear the words found in II Nephi 5:99, "and say unto Zion, Behold these are my people."

Come, Lord Jesus, we eagerly and prayerfully await you. The glory of your name is above all names. The name that one day every tongue will confess and before whom every knee will bow. JESUS. (Philippians 2:9-11)

And to God all honor and glory be given. In Christ's name,

Amen