

July Prayer Guide

A guide for interceding for the advance of the gospel

Wait on the Lord

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14

Waiting for anything is generally not seen as enjoyable, especially because waiting often includes some type of tension from uncertainty, transition, lack of control, etc. But we know that the Lord has a way of using these times to create a shift in our hearts and develop His character more deeply within us.

Even as I write this, I've been in an extended season of waiting on the Lord for clear direction. Maybe you can relate to having to wait months, seasons, even years for what you have been seeking from God. I can speak first hand of the great encouragement there is to be found even as we wait, when we continue surrounding ourselves with wise counsel and remaining in meaningful fellowship with church families, praising & thanking Him for what we see He has done.

So, as we seek the Lord this month during our time of prayer, while some churches and families may be in a season of reaping with the Lord, let's pray with those who are waiting on the Lord and even take some time to call/stop by with them now and sit in silence together. What a comfort that would be to have a Christian call you out of the blue, saying “the Lord put you on my heart, can we wait on Him together and pray”!

Here are some questions we can bring to the Lord in prayer together:

- Holy Spirit, what are you speaking to our church family for this season?
- Lord Jesus, how do I/ how does our family fit into your call to our church family?
- Abba, Father, we belong to you. How can we seek first your kingdom and your righteousness in these days?

Many believers know the famous words from the prophet Isaiah 40:31, *“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”* But do you know the start of Isaiah 40? It really makes the end so much more meaningful!

Isaiah 40:1-2: “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God.
“Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.”



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WE PRAY

Wow, did you expect that to end differently? Israel received “double from the Lord for all her sins!” That’s why they were going through all that warfare? Our good, loving, kind, compassionate heavenly father was disciplining His people. It’s not a message we necessarily like to hear as adults. For our kids, yes, discipline is good and fine. But for those of us in a season of waiting, it’s prudent to pray, and perhaps process with a trusted friend or spouse, “Lord, why am I in this season of waiting on you? What are you trying to teach me in this season? How do I need to grow in trusting you?”

Isaiah continues with the prophecy of John the Baptist: **3** The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **4** Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth.”

Valleys, mountains and crooked places are referring to people’s hearts and minds here, either being lifted up/encouraged by the Lord or brought low/humbled or made straight/smooth by His hand. Then, only then, when the Lord gets us all on the straight highway, He comes...

5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Family of God, get ready, Jesus is coming!

As we pray through Isaiah 40 together this month, knowing that scores of churches around Rhode Island are a part of Together RI, and many remain committed to pray at least 1 day, *let us wait on the Lord together*. His fresh Glory continues coming, His Presence continues being revealed through all of us as His Church in Rhode Island.