

Ask the Lord of the Harvest



By Kim Butts

We recently had dinner with friends who are working to raise their funds to go on the mission field. They have made presentations in countless churches for many months, and have heard such comments as, "That was a wonderful presentation, but we have no funds available at this time." Or, "When you actually get to Zambia we would consider supporting you."

What our friends are too gracious to say, in their frustration, is, "How can we get to the field if no one will send us?" They are becoming weary and discouraged. God has clearly called them; they have diligently prayed; they are trained, prepared and ready to go; they have established contacts from previous missionary service in the country; yet, they continue to be "on holds" until the funds are provided.

Romans 10:14-15 says, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself gave us the Great Commission—not

as a suggestion—but as a COMMAND! “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Our response to this command is simply to do one of two things: we either go, or we send. If we are not doing one of these things, we are being directly disobedient to the command!

Are we 21st century disciples? I believe we are. As his disciples, it should always be our desire to pray what is on God’s heart. Lost people are on His heart. So Jesus says to us, His disciples, in Matthew 9:37-38, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” This is not a prayer suggestion. It is a prayer command! We are to ask the Lord to send workers! It is my belief that when we pray for the Lord to send missionaries to the lost, we ought to consider listening very carefully. It may be that He is calling us to respond. We are the Lord’s hands and feet upon this earth. If we pray that He will send missionaries, He may wish to work through us to accomplish it! Some of us will go and the rest of us will send. We should never pray for others to do the sending unless we are going!

Let’s get back to our missionary friends who are trying to get to Zambia. If every Christian was as serious about asking the Lord of the Harvest to send workers as He is about wanting us to ask, and if we are as serious about fulfilling the Great Commission by going or sending as He is about having us go or send, then there should never be a missionary family, or a missions organization of any kind without enough support to get their work accomplished! We should do whatever it takes to put them in ministry and keep them there—fully funded and

continuously prayed for.

Would you consider praying this prayer as an individual, as a family, or as a church?

Lord of the Harvest, we see that Your harvest field is ripe and ready all over this nation and the world! We long to see Your kingdom come on this earth and to do everything we can to obey Your commission to go into all the world. Help us to consider serving You by answering Your call to go, or to generously release our funds so that others might be sent. May we as individuals, as families and as Your Church, respond to Your command in whatever way You call us! We want the harvest to be plentiful and powerful! Show us how to pray effectively for the protection, boldness, clarity, health, and fruitfulness of missionaries. May we actively seek to align ourselves with Your heart and respond to the need! We pray that our hearts would be obedient to the desires of Your heart, so that all men would come to a saving knowledge of the truth—the Lord Jesus Christ, in Whose powerful Name we pray. Amen.

The time is short! Please be a world Christian who:

PRAYS – continuously

GOES – in response to the call of God

SENDS – generously and wholeheartedly

Kim Butts is the co-founder of [Harvest Prayer Ministries](#) and the author of [The Praying Family](#).

The Watch of the Lord

The Watch of the Lord

By Dave Butts

In May of 1995, I had the wonderful opportunity to spend several weeks in South Korea for a missions conference. One of the highlights of my time there was to worship at the world's largest church. Pastor David Yonggi Cho's Yoido Full Gospel Church with its 800,000 members is an amazing thing to see. The role of prayer in its establishment and growth is well-known. What may not be so known is the role of the Lord's Watch, or continual prayer.

Yoido Full Gospel has several prayer mountains that are full, day and night with Christians praying. I spent several days on one of the Korean prayer mountains and was amazed at the passion and intensity of the prayer that was ongoing. Even for those who do not go to the prayer mountain, there are opportunities to spend the night in prayer. Every Friday night, the 25,000 seat sanctuary is filled with Christians who spend the night together in prayer. God has honored that kind of "all-out" praying by blessing that congregation in ways beyond the imagining of most churches.

Day and night prayer...continual prayer...24 hours, 7 days a week prayer...God seems to be calling the Church back to that sort of desperate dependency upon Himself. Far from being merely a fad or an emotional response, this type of prayer movement is simply a return to Scripture. God's word is full of both command and example concerning the Lord's Watch...not using that term necessarily, but certainly demonstrating the concept of day and night prayer.

It is Jesus who clearly ties together the concept of watching, with that of praying. In the Matthew 26 account of His betrayal in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asks three of His disciples to “keep watch with me” (vs.38). Then in verse 39 He goes and begins to pray. After His prayer time, He returns to where He had left the disciples, only to find them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” (vs.40). “Watch and pray” He continued in verse 41 and then He left them to return to His own prayer time. When Jesus asked them to watch with Him, and then He began to pray, He was showing them (and us) that to watch meant to pray.

Like what you are reading? This article is part of a FREE 2-week short course called “Watchmen on the Wall”, offered by **PrayerU.com**, the digital learning site of Harvest Prayer Ministries. [Click here](#) for more information about **PrayerU**. [To check out the FREE COURSE, click here.](#)

What is exciting for us is to realize that this is just the culmination of many Scriptures that point the people of God to the power of the Lord’s Watch. There are many passages that speak of this. Isaiah 62:6-7 is perhaps one of the best known: “I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.”

Look at the emphasis on praying during the night in the following passages:

Joel 1:13 – “Put on sackcloth, O priests, and mourn; wail, you who minister before the altar. Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you who minister before my God.”

Psalms 134:1 – “Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord who minister by night in the house of the Lord.”

Psalms 63:6 – “On my bed I remember you; I think of you through

the watches of the night.”

Psalm 22:2 – “O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night but I find no rest.”

Genesis 32:22-28 – This is the story of Jacob wrestling at night with God.

Exodus 12:42 – The Passover remembrance was to be a nighttime prayer vigil before the Lord. “Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.”

Nehemiah 4:9 – “But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.”

This list could continue with inferences from the New Testament of this pattern of prayer at night, even looking at Acts 1:14 which speaks of the early believers before Pentecost praying constantly together. Paul spoke in several places of sleepless nights and wrestling in prayer.

Brothers and sisters, those who have gone before us had taken prayer to a whole new level. Day and night they poured out their hearts to God and He heard! Power was poured out from on high in response to the prayers of His people. And He still desires to do that today. We will not change our homes, our cities, our nation, or this world by our plans and programs, but only by the power of God that comes in response to the prayers of the Church.

In the 1700’s Charles Wesley wrote a hymn entitled, “Hymns for the Watch-Night”:

Oft have we pass’d the guilty night,
In revellings and frantic mirth:
The creature was our sole delight,
Our happiness the things of earth:
But O! suffice the season past,
We choose the better part at last.

We will not close our wakeful eyes,
We will not let our eyelids sleep,
But humbly lift them to the skies,
And all a solemn vigil keep:
So many years on sin bestow'd
Can we not watch one night for God?

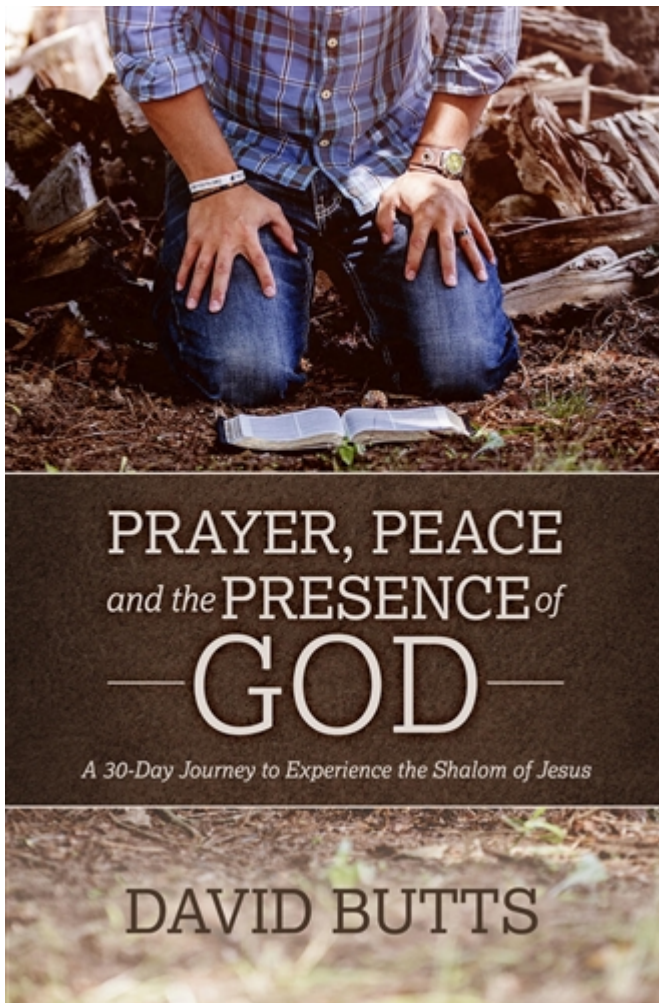
For ever let th' Archangel's voice
Be sounding in our ears
The solemn midnight cry,
"Ye dead, the Judge is Come!
Arise and meet him in the sky,
And meet your instant doom!"

O may we thus be found,
Obedient to his word,
Attentive to the trumpet's sound,
And looking for our Lord!
O may we thus ensure
Our lot among the blest,
And watch a moment to secure
An everlasting rest!

Mahesh Chavda, in his book, *Watch of the Lord*, reminds us that
"above all, remember that God is the premier Watchman."

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Ps. 121:1-3).

Let's join the Lord of the Watch!



PRAYER, PEACE, and the PRESENCE of GOD by David Butts

As believers, we are supposed to walk in the peace of Christ, yet we all have stressful issues and circumstances that rob us of this peace. Subtitled “A 30-Day Journey to Experience the Shalom of Jesus,” *Prayer, Peace and the Presence of God* powerfully encourages the reader on how to hold onto that peace in any circumstance.

When author, David Butts (1953-2022), first started writing this book, he got word ten days into the project that he was in stage 4 with a rare form of lymphoma. God not only allowed him to complete the book, but to live for five more full-strength years. His 30-day devotional will encourage, inspire and challenge you to walk in the peace of Jesus no matter what situations or struggles you are walking through.

[Learn more about purchasing this book here](#)

[Click here](#) to try our short FREE COURSE on intercession, [Watchmen on the Wall](#), to get a sample of what PrayerU can offer you and your church. Or, [sign up now](#) for an annual Individual or Church membership to PrayerU.com and see how you can grow in your prayer life and how your church can become a praying church.

Sign Up for Connection! Daily Prayer Devotions

A daily devotional on prayer. Each devotional includes an inspiring and challenging message on prayer, a prayer to pray and several scripture-based prayer points. Here is a note from one of our thousands of subscribers from all over the world: "Thank you for your faithfulness in service to the Kingdom of God!! These devotionals make a difference in my life as the Holy Spirit speaks to my heart!" – Diane H.

Sign Up for Prayer Tip Tuesday

Each week we will email you some short tips and a resource to encourage and challenge you to go deeper in prayer.

Harvest does not rent our email lists to other organizations. On rare occasions we will use our lists to inform our friends of prayer events or initiatives of national or international importance, and occasionally we will use our lists to inform our friends of a financial need in the ministry.

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Tuesday

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Good Morning, Lord!

Ask the Lord of the Harvest

I'm often asked about my own prayer life. It's always embarrassing to answer because I don't feel like a great man of prayer. But the opposite is true also. I hate to answer because it looks like I've got it all together. So can I just say that I've learned a lot through the years and am praying better than I used to, but still feel like I'm on a journey with a long way to go?

With that as an understanding, I'd like to share some prayers that I pray every day, or almost every day. The purpose for sharing them is to encourage others in their prayer lives. Sometimes it seems that we just get overwhelmed with life and our prayer life shuts down. There are, though, some simple ways to pray that allow us to keep going even when things are tough. Having a good biblical pattern for prayer keeps us on the path to intimacy with the Lord and prevents a crash and burn lifestyle.

The following ways to pray do not keep us from sin. I wish they did! But they do keep us closer to the Lord and cause us to turn from sin and back toward Him. These prayers also keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning within us regardless of what is going on around us. Prayer ultimately keeps us

connected to God and that is the place of growth, protection, and provision.

Fixing Your Eyes on Jesus

I rarely begin my prayer time without spending time in worship. Acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus over not just my life, but over every part of the universe is critical to keeping everything in perspective. The typical prayer that opens and leads to worship is based on the command of God's Word to "fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1-2). As I pray, "Lord Jesus, today I choose to fix my eyes on you," it almost invariably leads into a time of worship as I begin to recognize the awesomeness of who Jesus is.

Cultivating Gratefulness

I begin every day with a "Thank You" prayer. Gratitude is huge for us spiritually. When we realize that everything we have and are comes from the Lord, it should create a continual flow of gratitude. Simply thinking through the many blessings we have been given can spark a torrent of thankfulness within us! Sometimes it's just standing in the shower and thanking Him for hot, clean, water. There have been times when, overwhelmed by gratitude, I find myself simply repeating "thank You", over and over. What better way to place ourselves before the Lord than in bowing before Him with gratefulness welling up within us? Some good Scriptures for cultivating gratefulness are found in: Psalm 136:1-3, Lamentations 3:22-24, Psalm 118:28-29 and 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

Dwelling with the Lord

Every day I pray Psalm 27:4, "One thing I ask of the Lord,

this is what I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, gazing on his beauty, seeking him in his temple." Dwelling in the house of the Lord is a place of intimacy, provision, and protection. David's great prayer is a simple way for us to keep before us the simplicity of dwelling with the Lord.

Drawing Near

Closely tied to this is my prayer of drawing near to the Lord. It is based on James 4:8, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." How simple, yet how powerful to simply draw near in prayer, knowing that the Lord has promised that He then, would draw near to us in response.

Putting on Your Armor

An important part of every morning prayer for me is putting on the armor of God. In obedience to Eph.6:10, I include this as a part of my prayers each day. It can be as simple as saying, "Lord, today I put on your armor by faith." Of course some days I expand on that and go over every part of the armor in prayer. The important thing is that we do this. It helps us walk in awareness of the battle going on around us and of the Lord's provision for our victory.

These are my normal, daily prayers. I offer them to you as a way to begin a life of prayer that honors the Lord and invites Him into your life in power and according to His purpose. There is, of course, much more for us to pray about, but this is my "Good morning, Lord Jesus" sort of praying that awakens my soul to the day and prepares my heart for the Lord to have His way.

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DAVID BUTTS

THE DEVIL GOES TO CHURCH

COMBATING THE
EVERYDAY ATTACKS
OF SATAN

FOREWORD BY HENRY BLACKABY

DAVID BUTTS

PRAYER AND THE END OF DAYS

PRAYING GOD'S
PURPOSES IN
TROUBLED TIMES

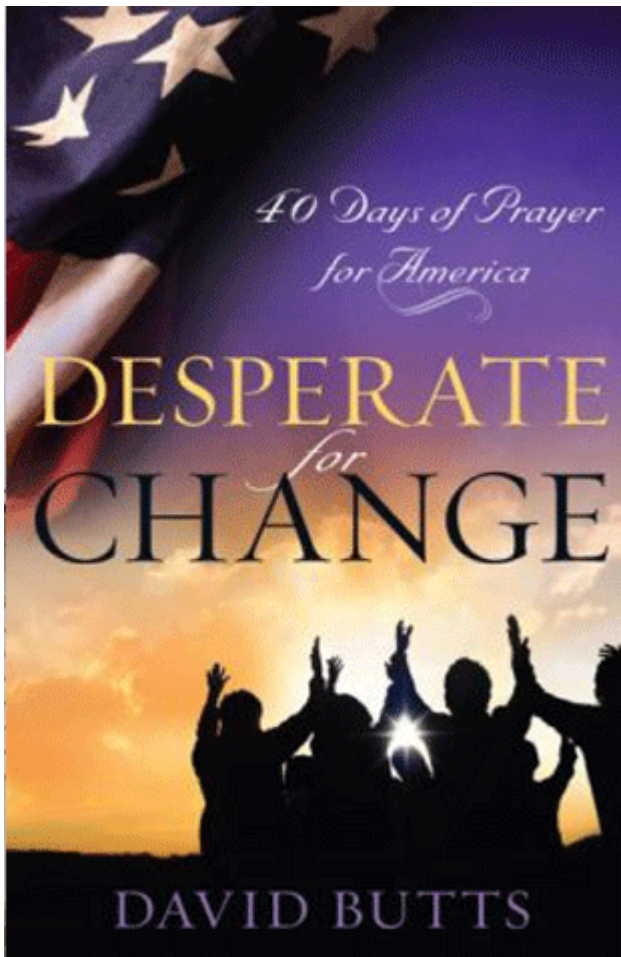
War
Terrorism
Gloom
Crisis
Foreclosure
Fear
Stocks Fall
Bankruptcy



FORGOTTEN POWER

A Simple Theology for a Praying Church

DAVID BUTTS



IF YOU COULD ASK GOD ONE QUESTION...

Ask the Lord of the Harvest

“What can you ask God that will help you be more complete?” This was the question posed to me in a friend’s blog recently. As I considered my everyday life, it occurred to me that I already have everything I need in Jesus for a complete life...and, on a theological level that is true. However, in reality, there is still much that is incomplete in me. I have unmet goals and aspirations. I have things that go undone each day. There are relationships that go unattended and projects that have to stay on the back-burner.

The aforementioned blog lovingly revealed to me that perhaps the reason so much of who I am and what I do is incomplete, is because I am not living a “rhythmed life.” A rhythmed life is one that brings spiritual disciplines into our daily activities in such a way that God is noticeably present in all of our moments. It is life that is embedded continually in the Presence of the Living God...the One who brings completion to the life of every believer. The completeness we seek cannot be found in one compartmentalized moment of our day when we focus on God and then go about the other activities of life unaware that He is active around, in and through us. Relegating the Lord of the Universe to one corner of our daily journey can be equated to living out of balance...and therefore, in a state of incompleteness.

If we engage the original question at an even deeper level,

perhaps it changes a bit. It isn't just that I need God to help me become more complete in my life...the real question should focus on how I can obediently live in such a way that I become more complete in Jesus. I believe King David recognized the need for completeness in God at the very core of his being. He shared the heartcry of his life with us in Psalm 27:4:

One thing I ask of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

This prayer is not a request to make of God without a great deal of thought and intentionality. ONE THING! It seems I have so many things to ask God. Is this truly the "one thing" that I seek the most from Him? Is this lip service to what should be, or is this really the cry of my heart to become more complete in Him for the sake of His kingdom rather than my own? Am I ready to make the commitment that this prayer implies? What does it mean to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life? How, when I am so busy can I make space in my life and in my heart to simply gaze upon His beauty? His temple is...me! How do I seek Him within myself persistently? This is what prayer as everyday life is! It is a continual awareness of the Christ, living within me. The answer to the question is deeper than many of us may wish to go...but to be whole in Christ Jesus is to seek after the one thing in order to become all He has designed us to be – fully complete – nothing missing.

Here is my prayer...the question I most wish to ask God so that

He will complete the good work He has begun in me: Father, as Your heart beats within me, may I dwell in Your house all the days of my life, gaze upon Your beauty and seek You continually within the moments of my everyday life?

This is a journey with the Holy Spirit that will be different for each of us. Perhaps your question is different; however, Psalm 27:4 has become the major question I have begun to ask of God in order to live a life of completeness in Him.

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Biography

Kim serves as the Executive Director of Harvest Prayer Ministries which she co-founded in 1993 with her late husband, Dave (1953-2022). Her ministry involves teaching/training and consulting as well as writing and developing resources. She is content coordinator for HPM's teaching platform, PrayerU.com

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Some of Kim's Books



7 PRAYERS

*for Discernment and
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A Group Prayer Process to Find God's Direction

KIM BUTTS



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EVELYN CHRISTIANSON

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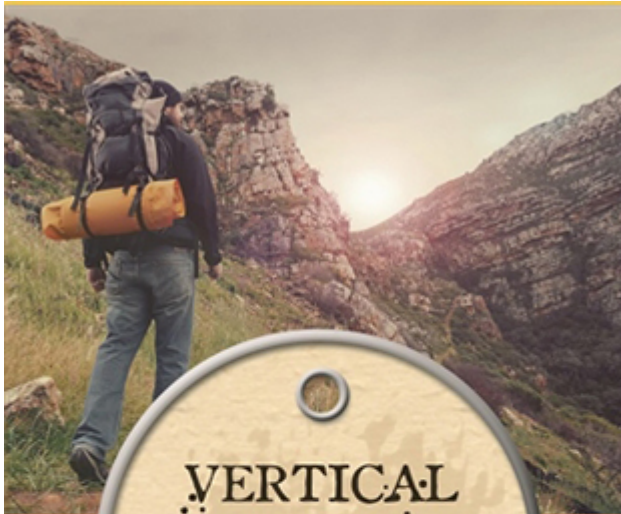
FOREWORD BY DICK EASTMAN

REVOLUTION
— on Our —
KNEES



30 Days of Prayer for Neighbors and Nations

DAVID & KIM BUTTS



VERTICAL
WITH:
Jesus

A 30-DAY JOURNEY
TO
IMPACT KINGDOM LIVING
DAVID AND KIM BUTTS

LORD, MAKE ME HOLY

Ask the Lord of the Harvest

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

I used to struggle uncomfortably with the command of God to be holy as He is holy...not because I didn't believe it or think I could become more holy, but because I couldn't imagine being holy in the same way that God is holy. I equated holiness with perfection, which only God is. Until I understood fully that the Christian life is a process of becoming holy through emulating the life of Jesus Christ, I fought the despair of never being able to attain what the command seemed to imply.

A few years ago, a friend of ours gave us a copy of a book he had written, and in it I discovered what for me, was an incredible treasure about the holiness of God compared to the holiness of His people. In his book, *God Focus*, Walter Price shared a fascinating insight. He stated that when comparing degrees or levels of holiness in English, we use the terms holy, holier and holiest. In Hebrew, there are no such words to describe different degrees of holiness; therefore, the word holy is repeated in order to give it higher levels of importance. For example, “holy, holy, holy” equates to “holiest”. We, God's children, can be holy, but only God is “holy, holy, holy.” Only God is “holiest.”

I recall a sermon my husband, Dave, preached where he pointed

out that holiness is a process that requires something of us, even as the Lord “makes” us holy: “Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy” (Leviticus 20:-8). To be consecrated means that we are set apart for a purpose...God’s kingdom purpose! If the Lord, who makes us holy, is to do so, we must first set ourselves apart from the standards of behavior that the world says is acceptable. We must keep His decrees and follow them, even if they are unpopular with the world. 2 Corinthians 7:1 says, “...let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. We are to set ourselves apart because of our reverence for our Father.

Therefore, my prayer for holiness must come from a heart of deeply felt worship, awe and desire. It is a realization that I will not be “zapped” with holiness simply because I ask my Father for it. With the life of Jesus as my model and the Holy Spirit as my teacher, I must pray for the strength to set myself apart and do what He has commanded. My prayer includes gratefulness that I am able to be in the process of holiness only because my Abba Father is holy, holy, holy!

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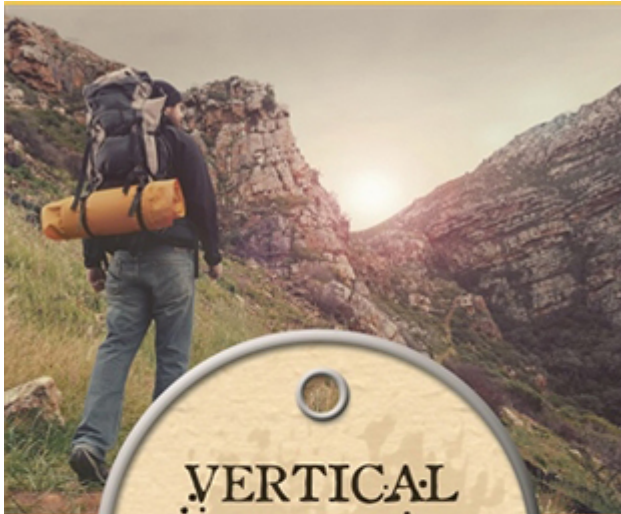
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