

In Jesus Steps Disciples for Life

Mission: To Make and Empower Disciples to Follow Jesus

Strategic Warfare Plan

Pray for our Disciples, Staff, Board, Prayer Warriors, Volunteers, Partners, over every section of this plan. In certain sections we will pray we are trained and successful in battle as well as overcoming personal sin. Include your own name and individual names of team members, if you know them.

Most of us will not be able to pray the whole plan in one prayer session, but we can pray over part of it at various times. If you print out the plan, use a post-it to mark your place or a keystroke if you're praying from a computer file. Thank you for going to war with us!

I. Spiritual War (God vs. Satan)

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. Ephesians 6:12

A. Jesus defeated Satan at the cross (Hebrews 2:14–15) but individual battles continue.

B. Satan is a created being and has no power outside of God's sovereign will (Job 1:6–12).

C. God has allowed Satan rule over the evil powers and systems of this world (Ephesians 2:2). In other words, the devil is leading the opposition against God but doesn't rule over the whole world.

D. Battles range from individual souls to whole nations turning against God. Satan desires to be exalted in the place of God (Isaiah 14:12–15).

II. Know Your God

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

A. Seven of God's Attributes or Characteristics

(Theologians count God's known attributes differently, some as many as 66. However, we will only list seven here.)

1. God is good. Pray: God, make us know that You are good, no matter what is happening in our lives, in other people's lives or in this world. Thank You. Amen. *You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.* Psalm 119:68

2. God is mercy. Pray: God, make us understand that you have compassion and mercy on all You have made. Thank You. Amen. God has deep sympathy and sorrow for people in pain and hardship. He desires to ease our troubles and move on our behalf. He works through our suffering to make us more like Jesus. *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.* Luke 6:36

3. God is love. Pray: God, make us see that You are the source of love and the starting point in talking about love. Help us to understand that You created the world in love. *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.* 1 John 4:7

4. God is sovereign. Pray: God, You rule and use Your power in union with all of Your other attributes. Therefore, You govern the universe in love, goodness and mercy. Help us to embrace Your holy sovereignty in our lives. Amen. *"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."* Jeremiah 32:17

5. God is holy. Pray: God, You are set apart, pure and sacred. No one can see You in all Your glory and live (Exodus 33:20). Make us embrace Your holiness and be holy as You are holy. Amen. *Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. ¹¹ Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.* 1 Chronicles 16:10–11

6. God is jealous. Pray: God, it is right that You seek to protect Your own glory and honor. You also protect Your people who serve You. We are in a love covenant with You, likened to marriage, and You are zealous to keep it sacred. Make us faithful to You and save us from anyone or anything that would seek to steal our commitment and affections from You. Amen. *For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.* Deuteronomy 4:24

7. God is beauty. Pray: God, You are good, beautiful, delightful and everything that is desirable resides in You. How we long to meet You face to face! Until then, reveal Your beauty to us and shine Your light through us. Amen. *One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.* Psalm 27:4

B. The Battle is the Lord's

1. Keep our eyes on God. Do not be afraid or discouraged because the battle is not ours, but God's. *Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.* 2 Chronicles 20:12

2. Face the enemy firmly, with a solid front. *You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.* 2 Chronicles 20:17

3. Fear not. Pray we never fear our enemies but trust God to protect and preserve us (Exodus 14:13–14; Numbers 14:9; Joshua 1:9; 10:8). We pray also that You always vindicate us from our enemies. Thank You

4. Thank God for our victory in Christ and pray we always give ourselves fully to the Lord. *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁵⁸ *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.* 1 Corinthians 15:57–58

5. Expect and accept peace in battle. *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* John 16:33

6. Jesus gives us authority over our enemy. *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."* ¹⁸ *He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."* Luke 10:17–19

7. No condemnation in Christ. Pray we are suited up for battle (Ephesians 6:10–19) and we are secure in God's approval and forgiveness. *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,* ² *because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.* Romans 8:1–2

III. Know Your Weapons

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:3–4

A. Seven Spiritual Warfare Weapons for Entering Battle (Offensive: An attacking military campaign)

1. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit resides in us and empowers us to enter the battle with truth, wisdom and strength (John 14:16–20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit keeps us in contact with God, our Supreme Commander, helps us to glorify Him, confirms Christ, teaches us how to pray, intercedes for us, and reminds us of Jesus’ teaching (Zechariah 4:6; 1 Corinthians 2:11; John 16:12–14; Romans 8:26; John 14:26).

2. Use the Word of God. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17) and it’s alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus showed us by example how to use the Word of God against Satan when He was in the wilderness for 40 days (Luke 4:1–13). Know the Word, proclaiming and confirming its truth in battle. The truth is—*the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.* 2 Thessalonians 3:3

3. Pray in the Spirit for God’s will. We should seek God in all matters and at all times. God is our Commander-in-Chief and has the battle plans which include who we should be praying with and for. The Holy Spirit leads us in our prayers so they are wise, effective and laser focused (Romans 8:26–27). The Holy Spirit will also lead us to pray for other Christians (Ephesians 6:18). In addition, God’s will is for everyone to be saved and understand the truth that there is one God and one mediator, Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:1–6). Therefore, we need to pray for Christians to be sanctified and strengthened in their faith and for the lost to be rescued from Satan’s grip by demolishing his strongholds.

4. Praise and worship God. God is not only worthy of our praise, but our worship reveals our devotion and commitment to Him. He is above all. God comes near and the enemy flees (Psalm 22:3; 2 Chronicles 20:22–13; Acts 16:25–26). Praise and worship are based in faith and confidence in God. This pleases God and invites His manifest presence.

5. Call on the name of Jesus and rely on His blood. Satan stands condemned by Jesus’ effectual work on the cross (John 16:8–11). Life is in the blood; Jesus shed His blood on the cross to buy us back from the devil’s power. Jesus is Lord of all to the glory of the Father (Philippians 2:9–11) and there is no other name by which people are saved (Acts 4:12). Jesus will do whatever we ask in His name if we are obedient and our requests glorify God in His will (John 14:13–15); 1 John 5:14). Evil spirits must flee (Mark 16:17) and healing takes place (Acts 3:6). We overcome Satan because of the blood of the Lamb and especially when we share this truth and give our own personal testimony (Revelation 12:11). Simply, we have victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57)

6. Thank God in all circumstances. Thanking God, like praise, is based on our faith and confidence in Him (1 Thessalonians 5:18). We honor God when we trust His perfect will and do not grumble or whine; plus our labor will not be in vain (Philippians 2:14–16). When we engage in sinful complaining, worry, and anxiety, we give Satan a foothold in our lives. *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.* 1 Chronicles 16:34

7. Submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7–8). We must subject or place ourselves under the control of God. In other words, we voluntarily obey God. Then we resist, stand firm and refuse to yield to the devil and his temptations.

IV. Know Your Enemy

A. Satan is real. He is a fallen angel with various names: Lucifer, devil, adversary, tempter, evil one, dragon, angel of light, Beelzebub and others. His heart became proud and he wanted to be God rather than serve God (Isaiah 14:12–14). He continues to oppose God and try to exalt himself over everything and everyone who is of God (2 Thessalonians 2:3–7).

B. Satan and his evil spiritual forces are liars and accusers (John 8.44; Zechariah 3:1–2). They are cunning (manipulative, deceitful) in trying to lead our hearts and minds astray (2 Corinthians 11:3; Acts 5:3). Satan and his followers are sinners (1 John 3:8).

C. He comes to steal and destroy (John 10:10). He has blinded the minds of those who don't believe in Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4). Satan and his evil spiritual forces are stumbling blocks to God's purposes (Matthew 16:23). They are actively looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8–9).

D. While Satan and his evil spiritual forces are more powerful than human beings, they are no match for God. They have no power outside what our Sovereign God allows (Job 1:12). Plus, Jesus who is in us is greater than Satan and his followers (1 John 4:4). Be aware also that God may use a messenger of Satan to keep us from being prideful or conceited (2 Corinthians 12:7–9) or to test our hearts (Revelations 2:10).

E. Demons can enter nonbelievers and influence everyone for evil intent (Luke 22:1–6). There is no record in the Bible of a demon entering a true believer.

F. Unforgiveness helps the devil in his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:5–11).

G. Satan and all his evil armies will be destroyed in the end (Revelation 20:7–9). Jesus came to destroy the devil's work and He succeeded (1 John 3:8).

V. Prayers for In Jesus Steps and the Disciples in this Battle

How does the devil and his forces take us out? He attacks our human or sinful nature by tempting us to sin. He entices us to seek happiness and satisfaction in someone or something other than God. Satan destroyed himself (ultimate fate) through his sin of pride (Ezekiel 28:17). He thought he would be happier if were equal or above God.

Pride is one of the seven deadly sins and the root of many others. In the late sixth century, Gregory the Great, influenced by Proverbs 6:16–19 and other texts, listed these seven sins as pride, lust, gluttony, greed, laziness, anger (wrath), and envy.

The remedy for all sin is Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. With the prayers that follow we acknowledge that His blood saves us and God's grace and Spirit enables us to be more than conquerors in overcoming sin and temptation (Romans 8:37).

A. Pray Against the Seven Deadly Sins

1. Pride is a feeling and deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievement instead of recognizing God and His grace (Proverbs 16:18).

a. Pray for humility and total dependence on God. We think less of ourselves and more of others. Love God foremost and our neighbor as ourselves.

b. Pray God's divine will and purposes are always a priority.

c. Fix our eyes on Jesus and crucify (kill) the sin of pride.

d. Always recognize all fruit, gifts (money, disciple-making, salvations, good works or any resources), promotions, salary increases or other perks are gifts from God and not our own work and abilities. We deserve nothing, but are grateful for whatever and however the Lord provides. *Not to us O Lord, but to Your name be the glory.* Psalm 115:1

2. Lust is a craving or strong sexual desire for pleasures of the body. Jesus told us that if we lust in our hearts, we have already committed sin (Matthew 5:28).

a. Pray for pure minds and hearts. Pray all thoughts honor God and any evil desires would be cast down immediately. Pray we do not indulge in sinful thoughts for even one second.

b. Pray all sexual desires would be for spouses alone. Also pray married couples would not deny spouses conjugal rights. This may give Satan a foothold for lust and sexual temptations (1 Corinthians 7:5). If single, God would keep hearts and actions pure until married. If God desires a single lifestyle, the person would be celibate and not be tormented by impure thoughts. God would provide just the right Christian spouses to those who are single and to those He wills to marry.

c. Pray no one desires another's spouse, or a married person desires someone who is single. Also pray that no one desires someone of the same sex whether married or single.

d. Pray we thirst after God rather than carnal satisfaction. Happiness and pleasure comes from worshipping and serving God alone.

3. Gluttony is excess eating and drinking. Gluttony is also idolatry because it puts the desire of food and drink over God and thus leads to self-love and self-comfort (Philippians 3:19).

a. Pray for healthy eating and drinking habits. We don't indulge in excess food or drink. We eat what's necessary to maintain strong and vigorous bodies.

b. Pray we don't put food or drink above our desire for God. Any kind of drink (alcohol, drug) or food addictions, whether it's sugar or salt intake, would be broken and placed under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

c. Pray for self-control at breakfast, lunch, dinner, and in-between snacks.

d. Pray for emotional healing. If necessary, we seek God's leading for anointed Christian counseling and therapy. Pray we don't use food to escape pain or life but seek the great Physician for our cure and right balance.

4. Greed is an excessive and selfish desire for material wealth or power (Luke 12:15).

a. Pray we aren't focused on accumulating wealth and that God protects our hearts from greed. We have no desire for material things other than what is necessary.

b. Pray we are generous with the money and possessions God has given us. We are cheerful givers. Pray we tithe and use our wealth to advance God's kingdom. We don't store up treasures on earth but in heaven.

c. Pray we are satisfied and thankful for all God has given to us.

d. Pray we aren't interested in worldly power or authority but only in doing God's will.

5. Laziness or being slothful is the avoidance of physical or spiritual work (Proverbs 6:6). Working is taught and encouraged in the Bible (2 Thessalonians 3:6-10).

a. Pray for God's motivation, energy and vigor to accomplish His purposes each and every day. We don't waste time in activities that don't honor and glorify God. We are productive and do what we should do. Pray we aren't lazy or slothful.

b. We work at IJS as working for the Lord. We recognize He is watching us and ready to answer our prayers, encourage us, and help us to reach more and more people with hope and truth.

c. Pray we don't waste or steal time from our employer, whether IJS or any other organization. Pray we don't use social media, computers, phones, or any other devices that aren't in accordance with the work we are called to do. Pray we are diligent in our work because we love our Savior, know He redeemed us, and know that He is with us each moment.

d. Pray we don't grow weary in doing good. Pray we get plenty of sleep and rest at night as well as the right exercise. If a medical condition is causing low energy, it's diagnosed. Pray for God to strengthen us and equip us in our ministry. Pray for God's grace to evangelize and disciple daily through IJS and also in our personal lives.

6. Anger or wrath is a strong, hostile response to one's displeasure or annoyance. We are commanded not to sin in anger (Ephesians 4:26, 29, 31).

a. Pray that our anger doesn't control us. God controls us. If we are supposed to have righteous anger, the Holy Spirit will lead us and our anger will be justified in God's eyes.

b. Pray we are quick to forgive and don't hold any unforgiveness in our hearts. Pray we aren't overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. Pray we don't have a spirit of revenge in our hearts; we don't desire or try to payback someone for what they have done (Proverbs 24:29; Romans 12:17).

c. Pray for any of us with anger issues that we would seek the Lord as to the reason for our condition. Pray He would heal on the spot or send us for Christian counseling to get help. Pray the devil doesn't get a foothold from our childhood or other challenging heartaches in our lives.

d. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and calm in all circumstances so that all our responses are holy and appropriate. Let no unwholesome talk come from our mouths or any revengeful, angry, or unforgiving thoughts take root in our hearts.

7. Envy is a feeling or desire for someone else's talents, advantages, or possessions (James 3:14–16).

a. Pray we are not envious or jealous of anyone. We are happy for other's blessings, talents, spiritual gifts, anointing, and advantages. We are thankful for our own blessings, talents, spiritual gifts, anointing, and advantages. Even if we are unaware of our own unique gifting, we are not envious of others but satisfied with God's plan for our lives.

b. Pray we are set free from any thoughts that cause jealousy and negativity about ourselves or others. Pray against any feelings of inadequacies and depression that come from insecurities that tempt us to be envious of others. Pray we are secure in God and His plan for us.

c. Pray against speaking evil of others, slandering, speaking half-truths, division, unhealthy competition, lying, and selfish ambition. Pray we do all things out of love for God and others.

d. Pray God would uncover the root cause of envy in our lives and remove and heal us from it. Pray God would also remove any cruelty, depression, and murderous attitudes that accompany jealousy. Pray for our holiness and purity in mind, spirit, and body.

B. Pray for Right Relationship with God

1. Total surrender of our wills to God's will

a. Pray that we are or will be saved by the blood of Christ and make Him the Lord and leader of our lives (1 Timothy 2:3–4; Romans 10:9). Pray we repent (2 Peter 3:9) and give every part of our lives, including our minds, to Christ's Lordship and rely on God to work through us to equip us with every good thing for doing His will. *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* Hebrews 13:20–21

b. Pray we are obedient to God and His Word, like Christ, even to death (Philippians 2:6–8). Pray we truly understand and live as one crucified with Christ so that we no longer live, but Christ lives through us (Galatians 2:20). Pray we take up our crosses and follow Jesus daily (Matthew 16:24–25) and help others to live as Christ. Pray we crucify the flesh with all the self-sins: self-pity, self-reliance, self-importance, self-esteem, self-centeredness, self-help and self-consciousness. May we understand that all these hinder or block our trust in God.

c. Pray we are holy (1 Thessalonians 4:3), rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18). Pray also that we zealously seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

d. Pray we offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God and do not conform to the pattern of this world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1–2). In this way, we will be able to test and approve what God's will is. Pray for Jesus and the Holy Spirit to intercede for us to have holy minds at all times. Pray for our thought life to be pure. We stand firm, strong and self-controlled.

2. Receive God's lavish love and love Him completely

a. Pray we recognize that God loves us so much that He has made us His children in Christ Jesus (1 John 3:1; John 3:16). Pray we receive God's love and know without a shadow of a doubt that neither *death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,*³⁹ *neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 8:38–39). Pray we recognize, feel, and live each day in God's everlasting love and arms (Jeremiah 31:3).

b. Pray we love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds (Matthew 22:37). Pray we understand that our love for God and for others comes from God. *God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.* Romans 5:5

c. Pray we love all people (Matthew 22:38). Pray that we love and pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:11–12) and do not rejoice when our enemy stumbles or falls (Proverbs 24:17). Pray we seek God in filling our hearts with His love so we have the right heart and ability to love everyone, even those who we find difficult to care for. However, help us to also recognize that God protects us and will be an enemy to our enemy if we are obedient (Exodus 23:22).

d. Pray that we love ourselves in the way that is pleasing to God. He made us in His image and, thus, we are wonderfully and fearfully made (Psalm 139:13–15). God has counted the very hairs on our head (Matthew 10:29–31). Pray we love our own souls purely in honor of our Creator.

3. Grow a strong and unwavering faith

a. Pray to understand and trust in God's keeping power, i.e., His ability and power to hold us and keep us as His own (Psalm 56:13; John 10:27–29; 2 Timothy 4:18; Jude 1:24–25). Pray we not only understand God's salvation power but also His mighty power to guard or shield us in this life so that we may reach our future home and inheritance (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24; 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 Peter 1:5). Pray we don't use God's keeping power as an excuse to dwell in sin or abandon our faith during trials and tribulation. These kind of attitudes may reveal a lack of true conversion or a willful and rebellious spirit (Matthew 13:18–23).

b. Pray for faith in God's promises to keep us from sin (Romans 8:1–2; Hebrews 13:5-6). Pray we appropriate this promise as well as others: *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it* (1 Corinthians 10:13). Pray that we continue to grow in the faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). May we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2) and know that God's grace is sufficient to keep us holy and free us from temptation (2 Corinthians 12:9).

c. Pray we have faith in God answering our prayers (Matthew 21:22).

d. Pray we have faith that moves mountains and that nothing will be impossible for us (Matthew 17:20; Mark 11:23–24). Pray we believe in miracles and that everything is possible for those who believe (Matthew 9:28–30a; Mark 9:23; John 14:12–14; Galatians 3:5). *You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.* Psalm 77:14

B. Pray for Right Relationship with Each Other

1. Unity and harmony with each other

a. Pray we are peacemakers and live in harmony and unity with family, work associates and all others. *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!* Psalm 133:1. Pray the gospel moves on victoriously in complete agreement in the Spirit (John 6:63; Acts 13:4–5; Isaiah 61:1–2). Pray we are quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry (James 1:19–20) and we encourage each other daily (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

b. Pray we love each other as Jesus has loved us. *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* John 13:34–35 Jesus also taught us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:42–45)

c. Pray that we are completely humble, gentle, patient, and bearing with one another in love. Pray also that we keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.* Ephesians 4:2–3

d. Pray that we attend to our own sins before accusing others of their faults and sins. However, pray we care for others enough to help them through dark and sinful times. *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.* Matthew 7:3–5

2. Not fearful of others or circumstances

a. Pray we are never fearful or afraid in any circumstance or situation knowing that our help comes from the LORD. *For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.* Isaiah 41:13

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20b

b. Pray we stand firm and face our enemies in the name of the LORD. *David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." 1 Samuel 17:45; "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."* 1 Samuel 17:47

c. Pray that we always call on God and trust His deliverance. *I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.* Psalm 34:4–5

d. Pray we are not worried or fearful of the future or the unknown. *They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD. ⁸ Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.* Psalm 112:7–8

3. Embrace spiritual gifts, talents, and fruit of the Spirit

a. Pray we cultivate and exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.* Galatians 5:22–23

b. Pray we understand and live for the reason we have talents and gifts: to glorify God and to help the body of Christ (1 Peter 4:10–11).

c. Pray we eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit and fan them into flame (1 Corinthians 12:31, 14:1; 2 Timothy 1:6). Gifts: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy (Romans 12: 6–8), Message of wisdom, Message of knowledge, Faith, Gifts of Healing, Miraculous Powers, Distinguishing Between Spirits, Speaking in Different Tongues, and Interpretation of Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:8–10).

d. Pray we never become proud in the exercise or display of the gifts, ministry, or fruit that all come from the hand of God (Galatians 6:4).

4. Seek God’s forgiveness and repent; forgive others and seek forgiveness

a. Pray for heartfelt contrition and godly sorrow for all sins. We forsake all sin because we love God. *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.* 2 Corinthians 7:10

b. Pray we truly forgive others because God has forgiven us so much. May we think of Jesus on the cross because of our rebellion and sin. *“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”* 1 Peter 2:24

c. Pray we ask other’s forgiveness when we sin against them. Let us not slough off our duty to reconcile with others and admit our fault. *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.* Hebrews 12:14

d. Pray we confess daily and not make light of our transgressions or anyone else’s. Pray we acknowledge sin and do not cover up iniquity. Let us also accept our full pardon from Jesus Christ, not thinking our sin is beyond God’s forgiveness. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:9 *Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.* Psalm 32:5

AMEN