

Now is the Time: For Purity in the Church

Joseph could not have dreamed up a more compelling life story. He certainly did not anticipate being sold into slavery or serving an Egyptian military officer's household—and ultimately overseeing the affairs of an entire nation. Yet, the twists and turns in his life were punctuated with God's favor at critical times.

Despite extreme challenges, "the LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered," as did Potiphar's household under his care (Genesis 39:2-5). Evil lurked as Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph; however, Joseph knew his God and sought to honor Him in all things. Although she relentlessly pursued, he resisted and declared, "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9).

Joseph revered God. He demonstrated purity over pleasure. Although falsely accused and thrown in prison, he still walked in favor as God "gave him success in whatever he did" (Genesis 39:23).

Through Joseph's fear of the Lord and commitment to purity, God blessed a nation—and ultimately his family who once betrayed him. Let's pray for a revival of the fear of the Lord and the pursuit of purity in the Church. Perhaps the Lord might again bless an entire nation.

1 Joseph's priority was to honor God despite family betrayal and evil pursuing him. He could not imagine giving in to wickedness and sinning against God. Pray for God's people to be revived in purity of heart with uncompromised Kingdom priorities (Genesis 39:9).

2 Joseph's pure devotion to God also brought prosperity to others, so that "the blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field." Pray for believers to devote themselves to holiness so that others might also experience blessing as God prospers His people (Genesis 39:5).

3 Because of Joseph's trust in God and steadfastness in purity of heart, God "gave him success in whatever he did." Pray that believers today will embrace ongoing cleansing of their hearts as they relentlessly pursue God and His Kingdom (Genesis 39:23).

4 Ask God to draw your pastor into deeper relationship with Him, with the prevailing prayer of "create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Invite the Spirit to make this the prayer of your entire congregation (Psalm 51:10).

5 Pray for this next generation to "stay on the path of purity" by "living according to [God's] word." Ask the Spirit to convict them to live by truth rather than cultural influences, with strength to stand against temptation and opposition (Psalm 119:9).

6 Pray that younger generations will be less influenced by social media and other distractions, but will instead focus on "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable

...." Pray for renewing of hearts with God's truth (Philippians 4:8).

7 Pray that this next generation will not feel looked down upon but rather will "set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." Pray that they become examples of living in the revival of holiness and devotion (1 Timothy 4:12).

8 In a culture that espouses sexual freedom and personal pleasure, believers are instructed to "flee from sexual immorality," as it is a sin "against their own body." Pray for a renewed commitment to purity that is modeled from one generation to the next (1 Corinthians 6:18).

9 Knowing that "it is God's will that you should be sanctified" with your body "in a way that is holy and honorable," ask God to forgive, refine, and restore your life in ways that bring honor to Him (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4).

10 Ask the Spirit to convict you to readily repent and be refreshed with forgiveness because "all a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD" (Proverbs 16:2).

11 Pray for your pastor to experience the depth of God's love that translates into extraordinary love for the Church, "which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith" (1 Timothy 1:5).

12 Our bodies are "temples of the Holy Spirit ... you have received from God." We are not our own, but are "bought at a price." Pray with deep gratitude for this sacrificial love—and recommit to honoring the Lord with the purity of your body, mind, and spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

13 Pray for increasing desire to “purify [yourself] from everything that contaminates body and spirit.” Ask God to perfect holiness in you “out of reverence for God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

14 Ask God to purify His Church by convicting believers that “to fear the LORD is to hate evil” and that the Lord hates “pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.” Pray for renewed devotion to walk in ways that honor the Lord (Proverbs 8:13).

15 Pray that your life is characterized by the glorious truth that “through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided.” Ask God to use you to reflect the power of purity in Christ to your loved ones (Proverbs 16:6).

16 Ask God to awaken your loved ones to understand that “the fear of the LORD—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.” Pray for those who struggle in sin and bondage to be set free to embrace freedom in Christ (Job 28:28).

17 Pray for a revival of the “fear of the LORD,” which “is pure, enduring forever.” Ask God to reaffirm for His Church that “the decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous” (Psalm 19:9).

18 Ask the Spirit to fill your pastor with the strength to “pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” Pray that purity of heart is a distinguishing spiritual marker of your church (2 Timothy 2:22).

19 In a culture that celebrates evil, pray the Church stands strong in believing that “the fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.” Ask God to use His people to declare truth and hope in Christ to a lost world (Proverbs 14:27).

20 Pray for believers in your church to renew their pursuit to “clothe [themselves] with the Lord Jesus Christ” and battle against any temptation to “gratify the desires of the flesh.” Ask God to create relationships of accountability that bring encouragement (Romans 13:14).

21 Ask the Spirit to renew the hearts of believers to “put to death ... whatever belongs to [their] earthly nature.” Pray for a cleansing of any “sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed...” Ask the Lord to refresh His people with holy living (Colossians 3:5).

22 Pray for an awakening in the Church to the joy that “those who cleanse themselves ... will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.” Pray for a pure and holy Church that is used of God to transform a nation (2 Timothy 2:21).

23 Paul commended believers who lived “in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and

in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God.” Pray that the Church is a testimony to a lost world by using “weapons of righteousness” to declare truth (2 Corinthians 6:6-7).

24 Pray that believers will “become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’” In a world of desperate people, ask God to make His beloved ones “shine among them like stars in the sky” as they point others to Jesus (Philippians 2:15).

25 Pray for your pastor to be “above reproach, faithful to [one’s spouse], temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, [and] able to teach.” In a culture full of temptations and pressures, pray that your pastor is saturated with the power of the Spirit to lead with a humble and godly life (1 Timothy 3:2).

26 Those who may stand in God’s holy place are those who have “clean hands and a pure heart.” Pray for a revival of repentance, humility, and holiness in the Church that unleashes powerful prayer and worship (Psalm 24:3-4).

27 Pray that you and your loved ones will “be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.” Pray for a passion for holiness in anticipation of the glorious return of Jesus (Philippians 1:9-10).

28 Praise God that “when Christ appears, we shall be like him.” Pray that believers today will “have this hope in him” and will live in purity, “just as he is pure.” May we treasure His plan to purify and redeem His Church as His return draws closer (1 John 3:2-3).

29 Joseph stayed pure and true to the Lord. He named his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim, meaning that God had made him “forget all my trouble and all my father’s household” and made him “fruitful in the land of my suffering.” Pray that the Church is revived with trust in God’s purposes in all things (Genesis 41:51-52).

30 Joseph understood his calling to live with purity and purpose, knowing that God sent him ahead to preserve his family as “a remnant on the earth” and to “save [their] lives by a great deliverance.” Pray that the Church is unwavering in devotion to pure living and trusting in God’s ways (Genesis 45:7).

31 Joseph forgave and rescued his family from famine by declaring, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Pray that the Church is filled with grace, forgiveness, and the understanding of how God works on behalf of those who are pure and committed to Him (Genesis 50:19-20).