

Preparing for the Year of the Lord's Favor



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 4:16-19



A Day of Retreat

Welcome/ Introductions

Worship

Divide into Triplets

Immanuel Prayer – Remembering the God Who Sees Me pg.4-6

The Mission of Christ Luke 4:16-21 pg.6-7

The Poor Forgiven pg. 8-9

Break

The Captives Forgive pg.10

Return to Triplets

What Do We Know of Forgiveness? pg.11

Life Without Forgiveness pg.12

How Do We Forgive? pg.12 -16

Lunch

Worship

Testimony of Forgiveness

Do More Than Think About It pg.17

Journaling using the model

Return to Triplets

After You Have Forgiven pg.18-23

The Blind Can See

The Oppressed Are Set At Liberty

The Year of the Lord's Favor

A Model of the Self - True Identity

All Things New Prayer Ministry

Preparing for the Year of the Lord's Favor

Welcome /Introduction

“He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us.” James 4:5^b

“Objective education is a strategy that keeps reality/ truth/ Jesus at a distance. Avoiding our own conversion, we desire information, knowledge that eliminates mystery and puts us in charge. We want to “change the world” but refuse our own transformation.”

“...the sickness of our world is a spiritual illness that comes from a lack of a living relationship with God.” Engaging the Powers p85

Giving our Attention

Attention is the engine of the mind's train that pulls along the rest of the functional cars, Ultimately we become what we pay attention to, and the options available to us at any time are myriad, the most important of which being located within us...(Romans 8:5-6) ...Much of the biblical narrative is the story of God working hard to get our attention. Curt Thompson The Soul of Shame p.48

Take a few moments to quiet yourself and give your attention to being in this space.

What is the first concern or thought that comes to your mind? Might it keep you from being attentive to this time and space? If so, will you release it; put it on hold for another time?

It might help to name it and speak to it, “Another time, you can wait”.

Take a breath and bring yourself present to now.

Notice how your body is feeling. Is there a place of tension, pain, tiredness?

Sit up a little straighter, take another breath and bring yourself to a posture of rest.

Let us pray:

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Come let us adore him.

O God, grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection. Amen

*The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

Zephaniah 3:17

Instruction and Invitation to Remember
Immanuel Prayer Exercise
The God Who Sees

Divide into groups of three: *Best to be with people you do not know well.*

Immanuel Prayer is an invitation to listen, to remember, to re-mind ourselves in a way that strengthens our love attachment to God. *Jim Wilder*

One Good Memory

"You must know that there is nothing higher and stronger and more wholesome for life in the future than some good memory, especially a memory of childhood, of home. People talk to you a great deal about education. But some good, sacred memory preserved from childhood – that is perhaps the best education. For if a man has only one good memory left in his heart, even that may keep him from evil....And if he carries many such memories with him into life, he is safe for the end of his days."
Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov

Exodus 20:24^b ...in every place where I cause my name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you...

Leader Prayer: *"Thank you God that you are Immanuel, God with us. We seek your presence and your blessing. You have promised in your presence is fullness of joy (Ps.16:11). You have told us your joy is our strength (Neh.8:10). We long for your joy to be full in us (Jn.17:13)*
We stand in the authority of Christ against spiritual forces of wickedness. We ask for the protection of the Holy Spirit and the covering of the blood of Jesus over this time, place and people gathered.
Come Lord Jesus be our guide.
Father speak your heart to our hearts.
Holy Spirit open our minds to remember the goodness of our God."

Listen to the Word: Notice a word, phrase or image that draws your attention.

Underline or circle it in the text

Genesis 16:7-11,13 (Amplified Bible)
But the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, on the road to [Egypt by way of] Shur. And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where did you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Go back to your mistress, and submit humbly to her authority." Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count." The Angel of the LORD continued,
"Behold, you are with child.
And you will bear a son;
And you shall name him Ishmael (God hears),
Because the LORD has heard and paid attention to your persecution (suffering).

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are God Who Sees"; for she said, "Have I not even here [in the wilderness] remained alive after seeing Him (who sees me with understanding and compassion)."

Return to the passage.

Listen to it read again.

Notice how it feels to hear the word, phrase or image you have been drawn to.

How might you see yourself?

How might you see God?

In Prayer: Ask God for a memory of a time when you experienced being seen, known or blessed by another.

"Father would you remind me of a time when I felt seen, known, blessed by another?"

Notice the first memory you are given.

(Don't think or try too hard. Don't dismiss the first memory you are given.)

Describe the memory and write about it. (Don't analyze, simply describe.)

Who were you with? Where were you? What was the circumstance? What kind of day or season was it? How did you feel? What was said? What surprised you? What seemed significant for you?

Prayer: *"Thank you God for this memory".*

In groups of three:

Share the word, phrase or image that you were drawn to in the Scripture.

Share the memory you were brought back to.

Return to your own prayerful listening space:

Ask God what might he want you to know because he has reminded you of this experience of being seen, heard or blessed?

Prayer-Question: *"God, what do you want me to know in bringing this memory to my mind?"*

What is you're the most important thing you want to say to me today?"

Pay attention to the first thing you notice – words, images, or even feeling in your body.

Listen for His voice, for what He wants you to hear, **about you or about Himself.**

Listen for Him to speak in a way that is especially for you, specifically for the place you find yourself today.

Write down what you hear, see or sense.

(Refrain from analyzing, summarizing or stating a principle.)

In the group of three or four:

Share what you heard, saw, and sensed with those gathered.

Return to your own space of prayerful listening:

Take a deep breath.

Reread what you have written about what you heard, seen or sensed.

Ask the next questions. *“Why have you said this to me? What more do I need to know?”*

Write down what you hear.

Prayer: *“Thank you God for the gift of your Word to me. I receive this as Bread for my soul, manna for this day”.*

Leader Prayer: *“Thank you God for your Presence. Thank you for the gift of remembering. Thank you for the gift of love, joy, and peace through the re-minding of our stories in this time together. Please hold any things that have come up that are unfinished. Appoint a time and place for those things to be attended to. Keep us in a greater awareness of You Immanuel, God with us; now and forever. Amen”.*

Final Invitation: Share the story with the one you remembered. In the next week send a thank you note to the one God brought to your mind. Describe for them the memory. Share with them how God used them in your life. Express your gratitude for their willingness to be used of God in this way.

The Mission of Christ Jesus

¹⁶ *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,*

¹⁸ *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind.
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*

²⁰ *And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:16-21*

The Poor

Need:

Symptom – felt need prompted by

Good News:

God Himself is:

The Captives

Need:

Symptom – Felt need prompted by

Good News:

God Himself is:

The Blind

Need:

Symptom – Felt need prompted by

Good News:

God Himself is:

The Oppressed

Need:

Symptom – Felt need prompted by

Good News:

God Himself is:

A Life Free of Debt

The Poor Forgiven

Good News to the Poor – Perpetrators Forgiven

Felt need prompted by Guilt or Shame

Our behavior, our actions are symptoms of the way we have managed our anxiety, our fear, our guilt or our shame. The issue is not the wrong things we do, but why we do them. The root is wrong belief or believing what is not true. Wrong belief leads to separation from God, others and ourselves. The result of this separation, this sin, is wrong action.

Prayer Invitation of Confession

“Father, thank you that you desire to speak to me. Thank you for the love that you have demonstrated to me in the sacrifice of Christ’s blood. Thank you that you are not a God of condemnation, but of forgiveness and transformation. Please hear and answer my question today.”

Question for God: *“Is there any place in my life where I believe I am unable to experience your forgiveness? If so please show me where that is?”*

Request of God: *Father please reveal to me, please tell me of one place in my life that I am not living in truth*

Pay attention to what you are hearing, seeing, sense.

Follow-up, clarifying questions.

“What is one place in my life where I’m not living in truth? Search me, you know me.

Help me know myself.”

“Help me to know the truth about what I believe about myself and what I believe about your forgiveness.”

“What is the lie I am entertaining?”

“What do I believe will atone for my guilt or wash away my shame?” “Is that true?”

Write down what you hear. Listen for a clear simple statement without explanation.

In the presence of another.

Repentance: Is there something God is inviting you to **turn away** from? A way of thinking, acting...What might you need to let go of – renounce?

Name it clearly What power has it had in your life? How does it influence you?

Confession means giving voice to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, saying what He has prompted you to know in your heart. It is owning the responsibility for our choices and the effects that they have in our lives and in the lives of others. Confession is intended to be in the presence of a witness because the power of the spoken word is able to transform relationships and communities. Confession is God’s way of bringing the hidden things to light. It invites us to humility that encounters the grace of God. The witness has the privilege of saying “you are heard”; speaking the words of forgiveness and cleansing in the Name of Jesus.

*Therefore, **confess your sins to one another** and pray for **one another**, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16*

Confession:

Agreeing with the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Never condemnation or shaming.

The promise of God to those who will confess their sins.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1: 9

Model of prayer of confession for believing lies

“I believe the lie there is something wrong with me; that I am less than and don’t measure up to who I could or should be.”

Or

“I believe the lie that my voice doesn’t matter; that what I say is insignificant and has no power to influence.”

Or

“I am believing You are _____. Or You are not _____.

Heavenly Father,

I confess:

I have believed this lie. It has distorted my image of you, myself or others.

I am sorry. I repent. I choose to turn away from the lie. I choose to turn toward you.

I ask that you would:

Please forgive me for giving power to this lie in my life.

Cleanse me from this sin, from this unrighteousness.

Break the power of this lie in my life.

Please give me a truth to replace this lie. What would you have me believe?

Write down what you hear, see or sense.. (simple clear declaration)

With open hands.

I receive this truth.

Speak out what you have heard – written.

Father.

Thank you for this truth.

Place it deep into my inner being that it would become for me more real than any lie I have believed.

I trust this truth to be a means to my freedom and more rightly ordered relationship with God, myself and others.

Captives Forgive – Victims Satisfied

“I choose either to be a living, breathing embodiment of forgiveness or I die. Slowly perhaps; but nonetheless.” Curt Thompson *Anatomy of the Soul*

Felt need prompted by anger and bitterness

Unforgiveness keeps us connected to the person and the past in a form of spiritual bondage.

Unforgiveness is like a kink in a hose that blocks the flow of the water of life (God’s presence).

When we have been sinned against there is a debt that is owed us.

What symptoms might you identify in your own life that may rooted in unforgiveness?

Shame

Blame

Hiding, silence

Seeking answers, understanding, validation

Rehearsing the story in order to be heard/believed

Numbing behaviors – alcohol, pornography, drugs, internet

Eating disorders – excessive weight or starvation

Physical pain

Chronic infection

Anxiety, anger, sadness

Depression, hopelessness, exhaustion

Sleeplessness

Lots of therapy – that has not brought resolution

Financial debt

Confusion

Excessive busyness

Disordered Responsibility – blaming

Regret

Self-harming

Self-protection or defense

Sexual Dysphoria

Rebellion against healthy authority

Distorted self-image and distorted image of God

Bitterness and self-defense

Dialogue and Discussion in groups of three

Group Exercise

What do you believe about Forgiveness?

Pay attention to what you have believed and practiced in relation to forgiveness.

Take five minutes to:

Review the symptoms of unforgiveness that are listed. Are there any that are familiar to you?

Consider the following questions for your own reflection.

Then **share together** in groups of three.

How would you define forgiveness? Write out a definition.

What do we **do** when we forgive?

What does it feel like to be told to forgive?

What do you do instead of forgiving?

What do you know of forgiveness? What has forgiveness looked like in your life?

How has it “worked” in your life?

Who has forgiven you? What did it cost them?

Who have you forgiven? What did it cost you?

What does it feel like to be forgiven?

What does it feel like to forgive?

Share thoughts, insights, questions with larger group

Life Without Forgiveness

Victims and Perpetrators

What is Good News for Victims?

“To assume that salvation is only about forgiveness of sins – taking responsibility for one’s failures and one’s Self-destruction – will overpower those who have a broken sense of agency in the first place...to counsel someone who is in desperate need of relief from victimization that they need to confess their sin and clean up their act is to further destroy what is already fragile.” Cynthia Crysdale

Life in the Middle

God

Victim

Perpetrator

Good News for Captives: *You are in a reality that is not your choosing. You are not responsible of the actions of those who brought you to the place you find yourself. You need to name the sin that has brought you into captivity and the pain you have experienced by the choices of another and the forgive them of their debt against you. You can choose to be satisfied with the blood of Christ and trust God’s power and intention to work justice on your behalf. Let God be God! He alone is judge. He alone is Savior.*

How We Forgive

The hurting one meets in the presence of a Witness

The Role of a Witness

How We Forgive
Four Practical Steps
(1)Accusation
(2)Recognizing My Demand for Payment
(3)Choices
(4)The Prayer of Faith and Forgiveness

Step 1 Accusation

Accusation is:

Accusation is not:

Step 2 Recognize My Demand for Payment

What do you imagine would satisfy the debt that is owed you?

What have you been hoping for?

What are you holding out for?

What do you think will make it right?

Your vengeance, anger, wrath?

If the offender understood and acknowledged their part?

If the perpetrator apologized?

If he/she would do restitution or experience punishment?

Financial compensation?

What do the offenses continue to cost you?

How are you paying the debt for the sin that has occurred against you?

The reality is that we know “the wages (what is owed to us) because of sin is death”; physical death, death of relationship, death of a way of being, death of control. But even these deaths will not satisfy the debt.

“No erasing or paying for damage done. No balancing the scales. Nothing could make the wrong disappear. It doesn’t matter what amount of good was done. It would not make the wrong right.”¹

¹ Rachael Denhollander, *What is a Girl Worth?* (Carol Stream, IL, 2019),103.

Step 3 The Choices Remain as is or Release by faith

I choose to believe my accusations have been heard by my Heavenly Father, the faithful and fair judge who will work justice and vengeance on my behalf.

I choose to ***get out of the middle between God and the perpetrator***. I release the offender and the offense(s) to the righteous Supreme Judge who can be trusted to settle all crimes and grievances.

I choose to give the person, the situation, the past, present and the future into God's hands.

I choose to no longer seek understanding or validation from others of my experiences of evil and harm.

I choose to trust God to settle my debt and meet my needs.

I choose to give up my right as an accuser of the offenses ever again.

I choose to give up my right as one waiting to be called to make further accusation.

I no longer choose a posture as judge of the one who has sinned against me.

I choose to not seek to build another case against the one I have released to God's judgment.

The final choice of faith is offered to the one whose hands and heart are now open, because of forgiveness, **to accept and to receive the blood of Christ as sufficient payment for the debt they have held.**

I choose to be **satisfied with the blood of Christ as payment for the sin that has occurred against me.**

I choose to believe and receive the provision of God as the demonstration of his love for me through **the sufficient sacrifice of Christ whose blood was shed for the payment of the debt of the sin of the whole world.**

God is satisfied. I choose to be satisfied with **the payment of His blood** as well.

Step 4 The Prayer of Faith and Forgiveness

After making clear **accusations, recognizing the reality of debt that is owed**, and clarifying the **choices** that are being offered through forgiveness, the witness offers to lead the hurting one in a prayer of faith and forgiveness.

The greatest expression of faith in this prayer is **receiving and applying the blood of Christ as sufficient payment for the debt of the sin committed against the one who has been wronged. This is the provision of God that no therapy can offer.** It is God's invitation, his provision of love for the one who has suffered wrong, that says, **"Forgiveness does not cost you, or leave you diminished, because Christ gave his life and suffered on your behalf. The Father is satisfied with the sacrifice of the blood of His Son as payment for sin. Will you receive the blood of Christ's sacrifice as sufficient payment for the debt of sin owed to you? Will you be satisfied as well? Do you want to be well?"** It is the step in which the victim chooses to enter more fully into the mystery of the efficacy of **the blood of the Lamb shed for the sins of the whole world.**

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The Steps of Forgiveness

In the presence of a witness

Opening Prayer

Step One Accusation

Specifics of Accusation

- 1) Come in prayer before our heavenly Father, the righteous Judge, knowing he wants to see that I am healed of the offenses committed against me.
- 2) Bring the offender before my heavenly Father. Call the offender by their name.
- 3) See the offense, hurt, wound, sin against me through God's eyes. Name, make a list of the offenses from God's perspective, without excuse.
- 4) Tell the righteous Judge exactly, piece by piece, point by point, what I perceive that the offender did to me. Tell my story, acknowledging what I know to be wrong. Present my case.
- 5) Recognize what I am feeling, how hurt I really am. Name the pain and its effect on me.

Step Two: Recognize My Demand for Payment

Payment is due

There is a debt that is owed.

What do I believe will bring satisfaction of the debt?

Name what I will relinquish.

My vengeance, anger, wrath?

The offender's understanding and acknowledging their part?

The perpetrator apology?

He/she would do restitution or experience punishment?

Financial compensation?

Step Three: Choices

Choose to **Get Out of the Middle**

Trust God to hear my case and bring justice on my behalf.

Trust God to settle payment.

Trust the blood of Christ to be sufficient satisfaction for the debt of this sin against me.

Step Four: Extending the Prayer of Faith and Forgiveness

Thank you, Father, that you have led me in understanding and have heard the accusations I have made against _____.

Father, _____ has sinned against me and has caused me great harm, in words and in deed, in doing these things they should not have done, in not doing these things they should have done. They have said these things they should not have said, and they have left unsaid these things they should have said.

I give up insisting that _____ (the offender) die to pay for these offenses and give the carrying out of justice back to God, who is equipped with wisdom and power to handle the work of vengeance.

I trust you God, my heavenly Father to decide who will make payment for these offenses.
(Christ or the perpetrator)

I trust you God to see that payment is made.

I trust you God enough to believe that he will see that justice is done on my behalf to the point that even my sense of justice will be satisfied.

I will give up my right as an accuser of this/these offense(s) ever again.

I will give up my right as one waiting to be called to make further accusation.

I will no longer live in judgment of the one who has sinned against me.

I will not seek to build another case against the offender.

Receive the Blood of Christ

(At this point in the prayer, engage your body in the experience. Sit up with hands open and upright in your lap. As you pray the following prayer, bring your hands to your heart and hold them there.)

I receive and apply the blood of Christ as sufficient to make full payment for the offense(s) against me – there is nothing that needs to be added to the payment, neither the offender's apology, further punishment, recognition, restitution or anything else.

I am free now of the debt this sin against me has created. Any lack I might have known is now satisfied by the blood of Christ as evidence of God's love for me.

I am now hidden with God in Christ Jesus.

I embrace my identity as one who is beloved of God rather than a victim of another.

Prayer of the Witness

I have heard and agree with the prayer _____ has prayed.

I witness the choice made to extend forgiveness:

That _____ has acknowledged the wrongs that were done.

That _____ has relinquished to God the right to be Judge: to bring justice or to do-the work of vengeance.

That _____ has given up their rights to continue to accuse or bear witness against the offender.

That _____ will not continue to judge the offender or seek understanding of the past.

That he/she has chosen a new identity no longer a victim, but a victor in Christ Jesus. I witness the faith, of _____, this one who has received the sacrifice of Christ, the payment of his blood, as sufficient for the debt of sin against them.

I have witnessed the choice that has made to be satisfied with the blood of Jesus.

I declare the love of God over _____.

Offer to seal these declarations by anointing the forgiving one with holy oil.

Time to Listen and Reflect
Do More Than Think About It!

I offer this invitation of a means of forgiveness with a warning. It is not enough to think about or to simply agree with the possibility of this model. This information is really no threat to the powers of darkness or the strategies of evil until we act upon it. I have found through my years of prayer ministry that the accusation experience offers insight, empathy, and comfort to the hurting one. But the step of faith required to re-order our lives in relation to the character, the promises, and the provision of God through the prayers of release and receiving are like the captive's first step toward home. We begin a whole new journey that will continue to be by faith into freedom. For many of us who want to live lives of obedience, this model is a means to extend the forgiveness we are commanded in scripture to practice. For those who are haunted and bound by the wounding of another in ways that disorientate their lives, this is a means for release. For those who have embraced the provision of Christ for the forgiveness of their own sin yet remain stuck in patterns of coping that deny their own pain, this is an invitation of faith to trust the goodness of God in a deeper way. This choice to forgive can be another place of repentance, of turning from sin to Christ.

What would you identify as a place of felt need in your life?

Do you most identify as a prisoner, a captive, one who is blind or one who is oppressed?

Ask God what He wants you to know in response to what you have heard?

Heavenly Father what do you want me to know today, now in this time and place?

Pay attention to your first thought or image. Simple phrase, statement, image or invitation.

Write it down.

Remember/return to what God spoke to you in the beginning of our day together.

Read and review what you heard as we began our time.

How does what you have heard fit with what you have experienced in our time today?

What might God's invitation be for you?

Ask: *Heavenly Father what is your invitation for me today?*

Pay attention to your first thought. God always invites us to trust Him more fully.

What might that look like for you?

Write it down.

What does it look like for you to say "yes" to God's invitation?

Do you need to make a confession of your own sin and receive cleansing?

Is there someone you are ready to forgive today?

Invite two others to be your witness and go through the process.

After You Have Forgiven
“Now that you are free, you can see”

Recovery of Sight to the Blind

“Salvation/healing involves taking responsibility for the consequences of one’s conversion and following through on whatever public changes may be necessary in one’s life...To claim a Self means taking responsibility for one’s actions in a new way. It catapults one into a fresh examination of just who is responsible for what. It forces one to face the ways in which one might have perpetuated the systems under which one has been voiceless...hiding behind the false freedom of not having a Self... Resurrection life for the crucified means claiming a voice, naming victimization, claiming human dignity and then discerning responsibility. Passive compliance is a sin as much as pride.”²

The process of forgiveness only begins the healing and reordering of our lives. It is as if being the one in the middle, we are now invited by the Lord Jesus to come away with Him and be healed. We can now be open and responsive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit because we can hear the voice of our Heavenly Father. We enter into a deeper trust of His love and mercy for us as we have extended it in faith to others, even our enemies.

Messages from Captivity – Lies we come to believe

*God doesn’t see, know or care about me in this place.
I have been forsaken, forgotten, abandoned.
I really don’t matter.
I am worthless – impotent – powerless
My voice will not be heard – It doesn’t matter what I say/do
My desires don’t matter
The one who harmed me is not capable of doing right
The one who betrayed me is not responsible for his actions
The one who holds me captive is not guilty, they had no choice
God is punishing me – He is mad at me
God is not good – kind or loving. He does not keep his promises.
God is withholding his best.
This will never change/end
God is powerless
There is nothing I can do – I am a victim
This is my fault
I want too much. I am selfish to want more/different
There is no justice. This is not fair and it never will be
I know what is good and what is bad
I know how this will turn out*

² Cynthia S.W. Crysdale, *Embracing Travail*, 17.

To Set at Liberty Those who are Oppressed

Prayer for Reclaiming the Inheritance of our Family

In the name of Jesus Christ I claim this family; each one _____ and the generations that go forward for the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

I command the spirits of fear, of anxiety, of shame, of pretense, of perfection, of performance to release your hold on the hearts and minds of the sons and daughters of _____.

I claim them for the freedom in Christ Jesus as sons and daughters; grandsons and granddaughters of God _____.

I command the darkness to flee in the presence of The Light. You have been overcome. These are the children of light, deeds of darkness have no place in their lives.

I stand in the strong name of Jesus on behalf of those who have joined themselves to this family through the covenant of marriage _____ (and those yet to come). I claim their hearts and minds as the Beloved of God. I stand against all brokenness, anxiety, fear, religious self-righteousness, pride, blindness, passivity, self-depreciation or exaltation that has been introduced and taken up residence. Be cast out in the name of Jesus. May the Spirit of God renew their identity - remind them of their belovedness and grant them peace and rest in the presence of Christ and the helpmates they have been given.

I stand against every evil spirit that contributes to the fear of not having enough: keeping them blind to wealth of the Kingdom of God and anxiously storing up treasures here on earth. Jesus has freed them; released them, you have no rightful claim on their lives.

In the name of Jesus I place my foot on the neck of you, spirit of Adoni-Zedek, Hoham, Diram, Japhia, Debir and Mekkedah (kings of Canaan). I break your claim on the hearts and minds, bodies and souls of these my children – children of God in Christ Jesus sealed by the Holy Spirit.

I pray to our Father in heaven that they would be filled to all fullness with the manifest presence of God; by His Spirit they would be quickened in their capacity to know the deep love of God. I pray that their eyes would be opened to the wisdom of God; that they would receive insight and revelation beyond what they could ask or imagine. Make them into a generation of prophets, kings and priests.

I pray that the blood of Christ would wash them clean again; that the enemy would be silenced; that the truth of God would prevail, that they would know the lightness, the freedom, the purity that comes from hearts sprinkled clean by the blood of Christ.

Today, I serve you the enemy of Christ notice. I stand with Caleb claiming my inheritance.

I have served the Lord wholeheartedly all the days of my life.

These children and their children are mine/ours and we belong to Christ.

You must release them to their rightful places in the Kingdom of God and His Christ.

They have been redeemed. The price of their redemption is already paid.

*The promises are theirs; the land, the life, rest.
The manifest presence and power of God belongs to them.*

Today I pray, asking rest from war.

I pray, asking for the peace of God

I pray, asking for the joy of true fellowship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and with His Church.

This is a family set apart – sanctified – to bring honor and glory to you Christ. I reclaim the purpose for which they have been born, raised and given. May the glory of God rest heavily upon them as a witness to the love of God; as a testimony to the power of Christ to save completely. No one lost! Not one!

Amen

The Year of the Lord's Favor **Crisis of Identity**

The year of the Lord's favor. The favorable year of the Lord
For the glory of the Lord. That He may be glorified

*The greatest gift we give to the world is our true self living in loving union with God.
The strategy of Satan is to keep us from being who we have been created to be. When we are "other than, less than or more than" who we were created and redeemed to be, the glory of God is diminished in the world.*

*God only does real, authentic. Until we will embrace becoming who He has created and called us to be, we limit the extent to which He breathes life, blessing and favor into our lives.
Identity is not something we find or create. Identity is a gift revealed to us by our heavenly Father. It is His voice that calls us forth. It is His Spirit that breathes life into who and what we have been created to be. We become who we are in communion and community with God and His Church.*

A Model of the Self

(Ask)

John 16:23-24

Voice

Capacity to create

*Power and
Authority*

Choice

Expression of our will

Self-discipline

Holy Spirit

Sound-mind

Love/ agape

(Rest
Be still and know)
Ps 37:7

(Delight yourself in the Lord
Receive with gratitude)
Ps 37:4,5

Knowing

*Discernment/perspective
Wisdom*

Desire

*purpose/ passion
need*

(Wait)

Ps 37:9

You will never find yourself in what you have built to define yourself... You may build a truly amazing collection of thoughts and emotions; you build a truly beautiful, unbelievable, interesting, and dynamic structure; but obviously, it's not you! (The Untethered Soul Singer)

Reflection and Response

Voice/Desire

Ask God to remind you of what brought you pleasure as a young child.
Remember what you did for fun. When you were by yourself what did you imagine in your play?
Who did you want to be? What did you want to do?
Where are the places you have experience the most freedom/favor?

Knowing

Pay attention to the first thing that comes to your mind.
Write down, describe what you remember.

Ask God your Creator, your heavenly Father to tell you how He sees you today.
Ask Him for a name, a word, a phrase or an image.

*“Oh God, my Creator, my Heavenly Father, please tell me who I am. How do you see me?
Who/What do you call me? What is most true about who I am?”*

Knowing

Pay attention to the first thing you hear or sense.
Write it down.

Notice how you hear what you have written. Do you have another question about what you have heard?
Write out your question.

Voice

Ask your question of God.

It never takes faith to believe what is false. Never. But it takes faith to believe what is true.

Choice of Faith:

Will you choose to believe what you heard as true?
Thank God for answering your prayer.
Tell Him what you have heard Him say about your identity.
Receive this word by faith.

*“Father I do believe and receive this word that you have spoken to me concerning who you have made me to be. I believe that you will continue to affirm and refine me as _____.
I welcome your empowering presence into the truth of my identity and the purpose for my creation, salvation and transformation. I do want to be who I truly am in your church. I do want to bring you glory in the world.”*

Voice

Share with another what God has revealed to you about your true identity.

Receive their blessing.

*The Lord will kneel before you presenting gifts
and will guard you with a hedge of protection:
The Lord will give you His grace, mercy and revelation;
and you will reflect the Lord's glory;
The Lord will lift up His approving countenance upon you
and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete.*
Numbers 6:22-24(Amplified Meaning)

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Extra Notes