



Servants of Christ
Rev. Chris McNeill, Senior Pastor
3827 Broadway, Houston, Texas 77017
713-986-5195
www.ServantsNow.org
<https://m.facebook.com/ServantsNow/>

A Devotion for Your Week

Letting Jesus Pray for You

*John 17:10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.
11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You.
Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they
may be one as We are.*

Think twice before you plant ground covering such as periwinkle or ivy. It is like Keith Richards—it will never die. And it will take over. You can cut it back, but soon... it will be back. Cursed/blessed with this covering, Alice and I decided to redo the backyard and make it a garden with edible plants. We are learning about ginger, garlic, Thai basil. The more we learn, the more we realize that God meant all of his creation to live abundantly. To see God take a small jalapeno plant and turn it into a raging bush with multiple fruit is breath-taking. It is interesting that so many plants were also meant as medications for healing.

Prayer, far from being giving God our wish list, is about tapping into this abundant life. God doesn't need to hear us, but he loves to hear us. You are God's beloved. Can you hear Jesus remembering you in prayer? Can you feel yourself wrapped in his love?

A long time ago, a church I served had an amazing prayer shawl ministry. Women (and one guy) stitched these shawls, saying prayers for those who would receive them. Many recipients were in veteran's homes or the local veteran's hospital. The creators of the shawls probably would never meet the ones they prayed for, but that did not matter. Imagine a veteran recovering or passing away covered in a prayer shawl, feeling the prayers of someone long ago.

Although I served this church many years ago, Alice and I received a prayer shawl from one of the members as a wedding gift. We may never see this member face-to-face ever again, but we feel her prayers and we trust she feels ours.

Like a prayer shawl through the centuries, Jesus is wrapping you and the world in his prayers.

A little farther down in John 17, Jesus prays, "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth" (verses 18, 19)

Back in the sixth century the world was a mess. Rome had suffered many invasions. The economy was horrible. On top of all that, they had what is called the 'first plague pandemic' or 'the plague of Justinian' which ultimately killed up to 100 million people. Into this world was born St. Gregory, a monk who devoted himself to prayer and left the monastery because he believed prayer should be in the world through action and service. He would go on to be Pope.

Jesus prayed for St. Gregory and sent him into the world filled with a plague that made peoples' skin die. Jesus prays for us and sends us into an ever-changing world to serve where we can, to protect our neighbors, and to be examples of how he would act in the world.

But as you go, when you go, remember Jesus is wrapping you in prayer so that you will have life and have it abundantly.

He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, give me the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting my teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes me strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for me. Jesus, give me strength in my weakness. Amen.