

PRAYERS FOR THE TIME OF HARVEST

As we enjoy the season of harvest, may we rejoice with gratitude for the bountiful blessings from God. Let us pray to be shown ways to share them in order to contribute to the well being of all.

Contemplating Beauty

Wondrous and majestic Father, all true beauty is from You and glorifies You. Through creation, provision is made for the physical needs of humanity, but its abundant beauty is also the nourishment for the soul longing to see Your face. Your wealth of mercy is paralleled only by Your lavish willingness to splash beauty all around.

Many times adverse circumstances cause me to focus only on the way Your image is clouded in our broken world. Forgive me when I bow my head in frustration or anger or despair and do not look up into Your wondrous face. Contemplating You is the only action that will transform my vision and restore my joy.

Please fill my heart with anticipation of the glorious place You are preparing for those who trust You as Lord, for its description is above and beyond anything I can ask or think. Give me a humble and grateful spirit to share the beautiful plan of salvation with the ones who are broken by the ugliness of sin.

Majestic Savior, the world is desperate for a glimpse of the true beauty that is the result of a trusting, satisfied heart. I want to shift my emphasis from external appearance to the eternal gift of Your abiding presence. Help me reflect Your true nature and pure character to everyone I meet.

In the name of the One Who offers eternal beauty. Amen. (Isaiah 4:2)

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

I Corinthians 2:9 . . . but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.

John 14:1-4 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."

Hebrews 13:14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

All scripture references are quoted directly from the NASB.

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Building a Culture that Glorifies God

The beauty of the earth and the good things found there demonstrate Your handiwork, O Great Creator. In Your wisdom, You have shared the gift of creativity with Your people, and You have allowed them to use abilities and skills to influence society and the culture around them. The beauty that mankind produces serves to point the world to You, in whose image all people are made.

Man's ability to create comes from the You, Father. Forgive me when I boast in my accomplishments and fail to acknowledge that You are the source of my creativity. I confess I am prone to abuse this gift. Either I selfishly focus only on those I love or I become engrossed in large "important" events and ignore the needs of those close to me.

Please use me to bring knowledge of Your presence into every area in which I am involved. In the parts of our society that are unclean or broken, show me how to bring Your restoration. In lives that are despondent or hopeless, use me to offer joy through Your promises. In people whose hearts are empty; show me how to share Your Word of truth that will fill them with Your love.

Lord, please help me keep You at the center of my perspective so that our culture will be shaped and blessed by You. Please make me aware of the many ways I might influence the lives of those around me to recognize Your presence as their Creator and Father.

In the name of the One who equips me in my desire to tell others of You. Amen.
(II Timothy 2:15)

Psalm 19:1 *The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.*

Psalm 139:14 *I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.*

James 1:17 *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

Proverbs 11:30 *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.*

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