

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S CHURCH TO IMPACT HIS WORLD

In this season following Easter and leading to Pentecost, we consider the awesome resurrection power that is gifted through the Holy Spirit to Christ's church. Let us pray that our understanding of the Trinity will strengthen our impact in our community and in the world.

Preparing For Persecution

You are the omnipotent Lord of lords who offers refuge and protection to Your beloved children. You also empower them to complete the work You have given them, even when the task is dangerous. You are victorious over all darkness, and You are the ever-present Comforter and the stronghold in times of trouble.

As I accept Your call to tell others about You, I confess I am often fearful of rejection. Forgive me for taking offense at petty comments and calling this true persecution. In truth, I am too often merely inconvenienced or irritated at perceived rudeness. When faced with real resistance and even life-threatening situations, help me conquer to overcome my desire for comfort over conflict and safety over selflessness.

Please give me wisdom and courage to represent You well to those who rebel against You. Though I want to stand firm for You, the Truth, I also pray to be compassionate and kind to those who don't yet know You. Allow them to see Your power through my weakness, and use me to show devoted obedience to You, no matter the cost.

O gracious Father, empower me to share Your love even when doing so can be dangerous. Your own Son was persecuted, and ultimately He gave His life for all. Because You have allowed me to be His, make me gratefully compelled to risk all for His sake. I want to rejoice forever at that privilege. "The body they may kill; God's Truth abideth still." *

In the name of the One who alone makes me to dwell in safety. Amen. (Psalm 4:8)

II Samuel 22:2-3 "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my rock in whom I take refuge,..."

John 17:14-17 "I have given them your Word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

Acts 4:19-20 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

* A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; Luther, Martin. Copyright Status is Public Domain.

All scripture references are quoted directly from the NASB.