

Week 4: Transformation

LOVE REALIZED

Every river has headwaters, and for our prayer journey it is the nature of God Himself...pure love and pure relationship are his very essence. Week one was about Love established—the story of how God created humanity to be like him, what wrecked it, and how Jesus fixed it. It's about Communion with Him. Week Two sees the inevitable expression of love's connecting power, establishes a new connection. Love's currents swell into Community—with all its challenges and blessings—the place we learn to love like our Creator.. Week Three explores the power of God's love as His coming leads to our going, to invitation. We become light, respecting God given freedom, loving patiently, becoming peace-bringers. Incarnation is God's love flowing to and then through us into the Neighborhood.

God's love. First to us personally as communion. Next, among us as Community. Then through us as illustration and incarnation. But ultimately, where is does the current of Love's river carry us? Welcome to Week Four as we meditate on the ultimate and unstoppable plans of God to fully restore His Love blueprint on his creation forever!

Feb 24: God's Sovereignty

Colossians 1:15–17 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

We can forget that what God created he declared it to be very good. When we see the condition of the earth, wars, pollution, fear, invading moral decay and outright evil, this temporary broken condition of humanity can obscure who God really is. However, don't mistake God's patience for lack of ability to redeem. When God acts, there will be no resisting his will. The Father is the final authority in the universe, but in his every action He marches us towards an inevitable consummation, a final eternal return to Love, to life done God's way.

*Reflect on the miracles of the Old Testament, the life and miracles of Jesus, the acts of the apostles and the early church. Remember how big and powerful God is.

*Commit again to God's side, asking Him how you might better align with His plan for you, His Church, and planet Earth.

Feb 25: God's Purposes

Acts 1:7–8 "He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses...to the remotest part of the earth."

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow about His promise...but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

God has made it exceedingly clear that redemption is His number one priority. Everything He does or allows is based on this mission. There might a thousand ways to participate, but there is only one mission. The Lord has called us to participate in this global rescue project, calling us salt, light, ambassadors, his servants created in Christ for the good works he's prepared for us.

*Reflect on God's unrelenting love and desire to redeem.

*Ask God to give you his heart for seeing the lost and broken come home to the Father. What courage, faith, healing, power, vision or opportunity will help you? Ask Holy Spirit to fill you as he did Generation One of the Church

Feb 26: God's Victory

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." Colossians 2:15 "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."

The victory is assured but sometimes the battle still needs to be fought. God's promise is that because he has already triumphed over sin and death, in Him we too have authority and power to fulfil His will. The resurrection is the sign that no enemy, not even death, can resist the onslaught of God's love and power. Whether principalities or powers, spirit or flesh, brokenness or evil, or any other created thing, nothing can keep us from the abundant life, nothing can prevent Jesus from building his church, from finishing the mission, from completing the redemption of all things.

*Reflect on the promises of God, on the authority given to his people, on the power and promise of the Holy Spirit. War in prayer for battles raging in your life or for those you love.

*From what you see in the world around you, give situations and people to God and ask Him to work out his best will for them, to bring them hope, redemption, freedom, and eternal life...all possible through the victory of the Cross

Feb 27: God's Invitation

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Feb 28: God's Return

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 "[God] who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

We are invited to the heavenly initiative to bring others to the joy and peace God offers. Through us, the Holy Spirit will entreat the souls hungering for something more in this life. God has called us to be his evangelists, his servants, his vessels and vehicles of change. Do you recognize the power and purpose he has given you? Have you stepped into the identity and gifts which are your inheritance in Christ? Have you accepted the responsibility of joining Jesus in his mission?

*Reflect on you would be without Christ, on who we have become in him! Do you trust him to act strongly on behalf of those whose hearts are fully his?

*Who has God put in your life path that needs Jesus? Ask God to help you see Him working there, and how you might help?

Mar 1: God is God

As we come full circle to the beginning of the month long journey of prayer, as we have explored the Love of God, the powerful words of Samuel Francis' hymn give us cause to worship. Make this a day of appropriate soul response to our magnificent Lord Jesus!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free! Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me! Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore2shore! How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore! How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own; How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best! 'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest! O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me; And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPXapFFesA

Mar 2: Thy Kingdom Come

Having spent time with Jesus, having seen his power over sin, sickness, nature and even demons, having been so unprepared for the kind of relationship he had to the Father, they asked him to teach them to pray, to connect, to commune with God like he did. Let's make his lesson to them our compass bearing for the days to come.

Matthew 6:9-13 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 'Give us this day our daily bread. 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

be with HIM
be like HIM