



PRAYERFUL PREPARATION

Week 45 | April 7, 2025

*“Go out through the gates! Prepare the highway for my people to return!
Smooth out the road; pull out the boulders; raise a flag for all the nations to see.”*

Isaiah 62:10

Few find God out of the blue. Instead, typically there is **a process** by which He *calls us closer* and *draws us deeper*, intimately working on the hardness of our heart until the **moment of surrender**. This work takes *time and preparation*, and we as God’s children get to partner in the process through **our prayers**. This week, as we *intercede* on behalf of the people in our families, churches, and communities, let us ask God to:

1. Smooth the Road ([Matthew 7:14](#))

- a. **NOTE:** The **road to life** is hard enough *to find* and difficult enough *to walk* without unnecessary tripping hazards along the way. The Enemy will often **lay traps** along the *path God has set* that are designed to cause our stumbling. Satan’s hope is that if we **should fall** before *reaching the Father* we will give up and **cease to try**. It could be a *pet sin* that he knows will easily distract us, or a **stray word** from another that triggers our *prideful response*. Whatever it may be, to **counteract** these schemes we must ask God to *smooth out the course* that leads us to Him, eliminating anything that might cause us to **falter** and **fail**. ([Isaiah 26:7](#); [Isaiah 42:16](#); [Heb 12:1](#))
 - i. **For Ex.** “Lord God, thank You for **providing us a path** that *leads to life* even though we deserve only the opposite. Go **before us** today, Father, and *smooth out the way* before us. Remove anything and everything that might cause us to **stumble**; every *root, hole, or snare* laid by the Enemy. And if we should fall, Lord, please **pick us up** again *quickly*, lest we get stuck in the mud and mire.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Even **the righteous** stumble at times, but they *always get back up*. ([Proverbs 24:16](#))

2. Remove the Boulders ([Isaiah 57:14](#))

- a. **NOTE:** As if it were not difficult enough for a **sinful** and **fallen** human being to come to Christ *in humility*, the Enemy has ensured that the road for many is lined with numerous obstacles and barriers that attempt to **hinder their access** to the Father. For some it could be a *generational predisposition* to mistrust the Church and its people. For others it could be an inability to **read or understand** the Bible. For many it is a general feeling of *inadequacy* and *discomfort* when it comes to God. Whatever the case, the Good News is that Jesus came to remove every barrier and knock down **any obstacle** keeping us from *knowing* and *being known* by God! ([Mat. 27:51](#); [Rom. 16:17](#); [Zech. 4:7](#))

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for laying **the groundwork** for us to *come to You*. Thank You for making a way when there seemed to be **no hope** of one. Lord, the Enemy has attempted to *bar us from entry* to Your path of life, placing artificial barriers to **limit our access**. Send *Your Spirit* and *angels* today, Jesus, to knock down these obstacles and **dislodge** these boulders that *block the way*, destroying anything and everything preventing us from **drawing near** to You.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Those who walk the **path of life** should never *prevent others* from doing the same. ([Acts 15:19](#))

3. Raise the Flag ([Isaiah 11:12](#))

- a. **NOTE:** Like a ship **lost at sea** in the *darkness of a violent storm*, we desperately need a sign to light the way home. Christ is that light, sent to show **the entire world** the way to *life*. The Enemy knows this, though, and has spent centuries attempting to lead many astray through his **counterfeit illumination**. Whether it be the *latest fad* in self-help doctrine or the romantic partner we’re sure will finally complete us, these ploys of the devil always end the same way—**dissapointment** and **disaster**. Let’s ask God today to *expose the lies* of the Enemy, **making obvious** instead the truth of His way. ([John 8:12](#); [2 Corinthians 11:14](#); [John 14:6](#))
 - i. **For Ex.** “My Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to this **dark** and **dying** world to *shine Your light* on us. Thank You for illuminating the path to life and for placing **that same light** inside of each of us who find You. Come now, Lord, and expose the *counterfeit gleam* of the Enemy for the falsehood that it is and instead make Your **way, truth, and life obvious** and *apparent*. Raise today the signal flag of **Your glory** high for all to see, that many might be *drawn to You* in their heart’s search for life.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** God’s light **shines brightest** through *His children*. ([Matthew 5:14-16](#))

Questions for Reflection:

- What has caused you **to stumble** lately?
 - You may have *fallen*, but you don’t have to stay down. He that **helps you up** is far greater than *he that tripped you*.
- Have you been **used by the Enemy** to cause another *to stumble*?
 - Stay on guard, one of his favorite weapons to use is the **unsuspecting believer**.
- Have you **hidden** or **covered** the *light within you*?
 - Ask God to remove anything preventing it from **shining forth**, those in your life *desperately* need exposure to its brightness.