

Easter and the celebration of what Christ did for mankind upon the cross and his glorious resurrection from death are almost here. Most churches are preparing their music and dramas. Many are planning their Easter breakfast or lunch with family. Schools and businesses are planning to close for Good Friday – and many people are looking at that weekend as a vacation time rather than a memorial to Jesus.

We know God desires for none to perish but all to come to repentance – walking with him intimately by faith in Christ. Since this is God's heart, we should spend time asking Him to work in our hearts, along with the hearts of our family, friends, and neighbors. We should ask Him to bring spiritual transformation in our lives and the lives of all those in our community.

I ask you to set aside Thursday, April 13th, as a day of prayer for spiritual transformation across our CCSBA area. Please consider taking time throughout the day to pray. You could plan a 5 minute concentrated prayer break each hour. Or, you could take three 15 minute prayer periods over the day. Or, you could pray for 30 minutes in the morning and in the evening. Please plan to spend some time on the 13th praying for spiritual transformation.

Pray for Yourself

- ✓ Ask God to reveal any sin: confess, repent, and accept God's forgiveness.
- ✓ Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit that you may know His perspective as you pray.
- ✓ Ask God impress upon you what He desires from you for the coming days and what spiritual transformation would look like for the near future.
- ✓ Ask God to identify specific people He wants you to pray for so you can:
 - a. Intercede for them.
 - b. Invite them to let you share what Easter is all about.
 - c. Invite them to join you for Easter services at your church.
 - d. Invite them to join you for an Easter celebration at your home.

Pray for the Lost

- Claim the person you are praying for as God's possession in the name of Jesus and on the basis of His shed blood. "In Him we have redemption through His blood" (Eph. 1:7).
- Ask God to tear down false doctrine, unbelief, or other teaching that may have built up in a person's life. Pray for his or her thoughts to be taken "captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5).
- Ask God to soften and prepare their hearts (as fertile soil ready for the seed Mark 4).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict him or her of sin and the need for a Savior. "The kindness of God leads you to repentance" (Rom. 2:4).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help them remember truth they've heard from Scripture.
- Pray that God would lead a strong witness for Christ across their path. (Luke 9, 10, & Acts 1:8)
- Pray that the person will hear, receive, or read God's Word and that God's will and purposes may be accomplished through Scripture. "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire" (Isa. 55:11).
- Pray that the person's eyes will be opened and ears unstopped so that the truth is heard. "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
- Pray with consistency and perseverance. Read Daniel 10:12-13. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

Pray for Your Church

- Pray for your Pastor to be guarded by God, kept from any hindrance or distraction as he prepares for the Easter message.
- Pray for the Pastor to be filled with God's Spirit, and that the fullness of the Spirit's gifts would be present as he prepares for Sunday.
- Pray for the Pastor's family and the church family to have Christ-centeredness upon their hearts and minds as they engage the days ahead.
- Pray that each member of the church would have an Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:19-20 mindset throughout that day and those following.
- Pray that each church member would take the initiative to invite others to join them for Easter services.
- Pray that every church member present for Easter services would be highly observant of and welcoming to others who've come to worship.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit has prepared the hearts of every person in the service, and that He is moving to help every person make the decision and commitment God wants them to make on that day.
- Pray that the sermon is powerful, clear, Christ-centered, and challenging to all.
- Pray expecting a fruitful day – expecting God to move mightily during the sermon and invitation.

The **HEART** acrostic is taken from Praying Your Friends to Christ.

The key to spiritual transformation is for the lost person's heart to be changed by the saving power of Christ.

The acrostic **HEART** will help you remember what to pray.

- A. Pray for receptive **HEARTS** (Luke 8:5,12).
- B. Pray for their spiritual **EYES** to be open. (Matt. 13:15; 2 Cor. 4:3-4).
- C. Pray for them to adopt God's **ATTITUDE** toward sin (John 16:8).
- D. Pray them to be **RELEASED** to believe (2 Cor.10:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:25-26).
- E. Pray for a **TRANSFORMING** life (Rom. 12:1-2).