

## Prayer Focus for Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>

This month we are continuing praying along the lines of establishing divine strongholds. As a reminder, when we bring our thoughts into alignment with the Word, we tear down strongholds that are not of God and in their place establish divine strongholds that are unmovable and unshakeable. The following prayers are excerpted from his book, *Divine Strongholds*. Feel free to use them as a starting point, then launch into your own prayers as your spirit is stirred....

### **Prayers of Blessing – establishing the divine stronghold of unity:**

Lord Jesus, we worship you and thank you for your love and grace. Forgive us for ignoring other churches in our city, for in doing so, we are failing to recognize part of our own body. Have mercy on us for any way in which we have hurt other believers, or repelled non-believers, with our parochial attitudes and isolationism. Make us one (1 Corinthians 11:29-30).

Lord, you are a covenant-making God. We especially thank you for the New Covenant we have in Jesus. Forgive us for acting like it is with us alone; we humbly confess there is only one covenant, available to all who call upon your name, even those who believe differently than we do. We want to lift up your name, not ours. Give us the mind of Christ to freely share all that you have given us with other churches and those in need. Let our pantry be open. This is our prayer: one identity to glorify Jesus Christ. Always and amen (Exodus 34:10; Matthew 26:28; John 17:10).

### **Prayers of Compassion – establishing the divine stronghold of grace:**

We thank you and worship you, Father God, for loving us so much that you sent your Son Jesus to earth not to condemn us, but to save us. Even now we take our thoughts captive to live out this truth. We pray to see others through your great love for them. Let no condemnation for anyone reside in us. Amen (John 3:16-17).

Jesus in your name we want to tear down all our high places of self-righteousness. We acknowledge that we are not qualified to judge, and we repent of our tendency to point out the specks in everyone else's eyes when there is a giant log in our own! With your help, we relinquish our desire to control by looking down on others and pronouncing verdicts on their lives. God you are the only judge now and forever (Matthew 7:1-3; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; James 4:12).

### **Prayers of Agreement – establishing the divine stronghold of faith:**

God of Israel, we welcome you in this place. You are an astounding God who does astounding things. Come and put your power on public display. Let your fire fall! In doing so, burn up carnal thought patterns that control us because we have catered to people for so long. Boldly be God in our church so no one will doubt. We look up and wait for your final settlement. Amen (1 Kings 18:36-39; Psalm 68:1).

Teach us, heavenly Father, how to live by faith, for it is the title deed to heaven's revelation on earth. By faith, we can speak to the mountains that cause us to doubt and fear and they will move to make way for your Presence. It pleases you when we come to you, believing that we will receive. Give us divine hope so that we can see as you see. Even so, come now Lord Jesus. Amen (Hebrews 11:1-3; Galatians 2:20; Mark 11:23).