

# Prayer Focus for February 1<sup>st</sup>

An examination of our attitudes and actions

For our church and for believers in Austin, we pray that the Holy Spirit would lead us in a time of self-examination. We ask Holy Spirit to unveil areas of our lives where we hold prejudice or carry attitudes that affect our ability to extend the love of Christ “to all nations”. (Matt 28:19) As you read through the following, allow time for the Holy Spirit to illuminate areas where he might like you to change. Pray for yourself first, then for our church, then for the Body of Believers in Austin.

## Self-examination:

Do I/we fall into the trappings of being:

- Hypocritical? Do I/we honor you with my/our lips, but in reality know my/our heart(s) is/are far from you?
- So focused on “saving people”, that I/we forget to see them and their circumstance? Have I/we lost my sense of compassion? Have I/we lost my appreciation of individual value?
- Prejudiced? Do I/we automatically write of certain types of people (homosexuals, Muslims or Buddhists, drug addicts, etc..) because I/we deem them to be beyond hope?
- Secluded? Do I/we only associate with like-minded people who think like I/we think? Have I/we so entrenched myself/ourselves with my/our church group and its lingo that I/we cannot relate to those outside the walls of the church?
- Political? Do I/we hold so tenaciously to my/our political opinions that I/we create division and offense?
- Judgmental? Do I/we regard myself/ourselves as being “better than” those around me/us? Do I/we express disapproval in a way that leaves others feeling condemned and downtrodden?

## Prayer:

Lord, thank you for not being content to leave us where we are. Thank you for your desire towards us is that we grow more and more into the image of your son, Jesus. Thank you for your mercy, which allows us to see our shortcomings, and your grace, which will strengthen us so that we can be overcomers. We ask for forgiveness where we have fallen short, Lord. And we ask that, in order to walk in a manner becoming of Christ, you increase our ability to love. We pray ‘more love’, God, for you. May you be the focus of our life. We pray ‘more love’ for our neighbors. We pray ‘more love’ for any you place in front of us. We pray for ‘more love’ because:

- Love covers a multitude of sins.
- Love casts out fear.
- Love does no harm to its neighbor.
- Love is patient and kind.
- Love is humble.
- Love forgives.
- Love compels us to action.