

## Week 7 Prayer Guide **Living in Hope – part 1**



“As hard as we might try to secure and order our lives and the world around us, the surprise of events, the actions of others, and the passage of time, continually disrupt and upset our best laid plans. It’s hope that recognizes the difference between what is and what could be. It is hope that creates the space for freedom and creativity. It is hope that gives us the courage to confront the uncertainty and to embrace the possibilities of the future.

Christians are called to be a people of hope. What distinguishes Christians is not the mere fact that they hope, but the basis, object, and scope of their hope. Over and over again, the Bible declare that the God of Israel and of Jesus Christ is a God of promise and of hope. The courage to trust the future comes not from confidence in our own abilities and resources, but from confidence in the faithfulness of God to fulfill God's promises.” *I.T. Dieterich*

### Day 1

**Read:** Ephesians 3:20-21

*“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen”*

#### **Think/Meditate:**

- The verse says that our imagination may be small. What does God want to do in your life? How does He accomplish this? Where does he want to accomplish this... In and through family, church, or this world?
- The passage is a blessing the Apostle prayed for the Ephesian church. God has the power and ability to do far more abundantly than we can even imagine, through the power that lives in all who are in Christ. How would Paul make this blessing specific for Queensway?

#### **Pray:**

- “Father, help me to experience You doing more than I could think or imagine.”
- Ask God to do amazing things in our church and in our community. Pray for a great work among us so that it’s undeniable whose power is at work and so that You may receive all the glory.

### Day 2

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

*That is what the Scriptures mean when they say,  
“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined  
what God has prepared for those who love him.”*

*But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets.*

#### **Think/Meditate:**

- Gods greatest blessing for me is Jesus. He wants me to know Him and be known by Him. Am I open to going deeper with him?
- What might that mean for your life if you intentionally sought to be more like Christ each day?
- What might it mean for Queensway?

#### **Pray:**

- Thank you, God, that You love me and You sent Jesus. I love You, God.
- Reveal to me what You have prepared for me and our church. Please give me wisdom today like Yours and a pure heart like Your Son, Jesus.

### Day 3

**Read:** All of Hebrews 11 in your Bible. Then concentrate on the verses below.

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (vs. 1,6)*

#### **Think/Meditate:**

- God wants His church to live by faith and not by sight. Where do I need faith now?
- Where does Queensway need faith now?
- What emotions in me, or in the church, may be crowding out my faith in God's love and provision?

**Pray:** "Show me Lord where I need to live in faith."

- Pray for awareness of the emotional nature of the struggles we often face in our lives
- Pray for awareness of the spiritual nature of the struggles we often face in our lives
- Then for the courage for you and for the church to ask God for HIS power to respond in HIS ways.

### Day 4

**Read:** All of Colossians 1:3-14 in your Bible. Then concentrate on the verse below.

*All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all it's truth. (vs. 6)*

#### **Think/Meditate:**

- The Good News of the Gospel is bearing fruit and growing all over the world. How might this give us hope?
- God invites us to partner with Him in seeing His Kingdom advance. What does God's invitation mean to you personally?
- If we are genuinely partnering with God, what does that say about our goals and our methods?

#### **Pray:**

- For a spirit of faith hope based upon what God HAS done and IS doing
- For the ability for yourself and for Queensway to see where God is at work today so you may join Him
- For willingness for you and for God's people to genuinely share their time, talents, and treasure in the things that are going to advance the cause of Christ

### Other Days & Continuing

Read from Romans 8

*<sup>18</sup> Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. <sup>19</sup> For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. <sup>20</sup> Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, <sup>21</sup> the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. <sup>22</sup> For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. <sup>24</sup> We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. <sup>25</sup> But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)*

*<sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. <sup>29</sup> For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.*

**Think and pray through these verses.**

- *<sup>18</sup> Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later*
- *<sup>25</sup> But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.*
- *<sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.*
- *<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*