



Week Three Prayer Focus – More than Enough – His Provision

Just Pray: As we continue to come in prayer to Jesus, the Living Stone, rejected by people but chosen by God and precious to Him, agree with the Word of God that we ourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be priests set apart for God to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Him through Jesus the Messiah. Pray that the Holy Spirit brings Belmont family into this reality.

Rest and Peace in Jesus Presence Position us to Receive His Provision

Once again, we refocus on our permanent position in Chair No. 1 as children of our Father, the Living God. From that position of rest, we can receive more than enough for every need we could ever face – and will ever face forever – when we are one with Jesus through our faith in Him. In John 20:19-23, we see once Jesus' friends receive His greeting announcing peace, He shows them His hands and His side. It is *then* that they are overjoyed to see the Lord. Wow! They see their teacher and Lord of the previous three years – the One they saw dead on the cross and buried in a tomb – alive from the dead with the wounds of His suffering still marring His body. His wounds are the proof of His victory, the mark of the everlasting life He has brought them, and the guarantee that He has finished all and made more-than-enough provision for any and every need! This is the miracle of the Cross!

A challenging thought for me has always been the assertion that God's power has given us *everything we need for life and godliness* through our **knowing** Him! The following assertion is more stunning: our Father invites us to embrace the possibility that we can actually share God's own nature and know His victory and deliverance! (Please see 2 Peter 1:3-11.) There is in God's promises a process and progression whereby we can, by making concerted effort, grow such that faith and a succession of amazing treasures are ours – goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly affection, and ultimately God's kind of love! In the corners of my heart I confess I have thought it too hard, or maybe just totally impossible for me to come into this. But the promise of God's Word is clear – and it is also clear I must contend for it. With equal clarity, the passage outlines the consequences if I fail to put in the necessary effort: I can be barren and unfruitful in my knowledge of our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

Conversation Starters with Jesus

What would need to change in your heart for you to truly take every single kind of need – big or small – to the Lord Jesus and His cross to receive His provision that overwhelms and obliterates that need in your life?

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What hesitation, barriers or walls have you allowed to stand between your needs and the Father's deep longing to pour out overflowing provision to meet them?

What adjustments do you need to make so that this pursuit of love – resulting in a generous supply of everything you need to enter the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Messiah – is the priority for you and for Belmont Church as a family in Jesus?

A Spiritual House – Royal Priests – Set Apart for God

Our prayer this week continues our focus on coming to Jesus the Messiah. The scripture promise from 1 Peter 2:4-5 (if you have time you may meditate in the surrounding passage, verses 1-10), says as we simply come to Jesus, the Living Stone, we will automatically be fitted together as individual stones into a set apart, spiritual house for God. As the Holy Spirit fits each part of us together into this holy house, we will then produce spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God. Can we have faith for this – that if we simply keep drawing closer to Jesus, He will fit all the parts of our Belmont family together in a way that we are holy, set-apart priests who offer to God what is pleasing to Him through Jesus Messiah?!

The passage goes on to explain that the building the Holy Spirit is constructing gets its shape and purpose from its connection to God's chosen Cornerstone, Jesus Christ. He must be the center of the building, construction, design and mission, in order for the building to fulfill its purpose in God. The section concludes that our ultimate destiny is to grow up into being "a chosen people, the King's priests, a holy nation, a people for God to possess" who declare the praises of our Father who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light! Any building centered on any other person or any other purpose will not stand the shaking the Living God promises will remove anything that is not grounded in the unshakable Kingdom He has promised to us (Hebrews 12:25-29)!

Conversation Starters with Jesus

What difference would it make if the Holy Spirit showed you now the shakable things that will be of no value to our King Jesus the Day you stand before Him and He pronounces judgement on the fruit of our lives?

Are you anticipating joy and glory when you stand before the Lord at the end of your journey in this life (Jude 24-25)? If not why not?

Are there shakable things you need to let go of – or help others to let go of – that keep Belmont family from coming together into the unity and order that only comes from the Holy Spirit building us together in submitted to the design of Jesus Christ, the Father's chosen Cornerstone?

What would it look like for Belmont Church to be a holy, chosen people utterly possessed by the Living God?