

# Prayer Update 1055

Wednesday 2 February 2022

**God's Word for this week ...** Matthew 16:15-18 and 1 Corinthians 3:11  
Jesus said to His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in Heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**"

"No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ.**"

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH JESUS IS BUILDING

God's intervention in the affairs of the world is the only hope for people, for nations, and the world as a whole. God can intervene sovereignly without human assistance, but primarily He uses His people, the true Church. The Church He is building comprises born again believers – His disciples (followers), whose faith is in Him; who are saved through the death of Jesus Christ; and who confess that "Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God" – "Jesus is Lord!". Through His Church, the power of the Holy Spirit should be demonstrated in a way that points to the Lord, brings glory to God, and blessing to the world.

We should never underestimate the need for Christians to rise up in God's power, and have a major influence on the world around us. Christians *live in* the world, but should not be *of the world* (worldly). True followers of Jesus should demonstrate *His ways*, not the world's ways. Sadly, there is a huge amount of worldliness in the lives of many Christians and therefore in the Church. But the true Church is the 'Body of Christ', so we ought to be imitators of Him! The true Church will face opposition and attack from the evils of this world, from principalities and powers, and those who are ruled by them. But through Jesus, we can overcome! Therefore, if we are going to be effective witnesses to Jesus, we must truly follow Him.

Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)  
Jesus is building His Church and the gates of Hades [death / grave] will not prevail against it. Am I part of the Church *He* is building? Is the local church I belong to, part of *His* Church? Is the Church in our nation part of *His* Church – demonstrating His ways, His power, His authority, His love? *Am I* part of the Church Jesus is building?

**Pray** for the **Church**. Pray for the growth of local churches and the Church as a whole; growth in godliness, obedience, outreach, serving the community, and pleasing to God.

**Pray** that our **prayers** will be Holy Spirit-inspired, powerful, with results that will be honouring and glorifying to the Lord, and a blessing to our nation.

**Pray** for **unity** within the Church and between local churches; that the whole Church will be one, even as God the Father and Jesus His Son are one. (John 17)

**Pray** for **revival**, sent by the Lord – an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, bringing conviction of sin, a desire to follow Jesus' Way (righteousness), and judgement on our nation and people if we refuse to follow His way to forgiveness and eternal life.

**Pray** for **evangelism** – the nationwide sharing of the Good News of Jesus' saving love and grace. Pray for outreach by individual Christians, churches, Christian organisations; including using all forms of the media, to reach out to those who are not yet His followers.

**Pray** for our **nation and people**. Pray for righteousness amongst Christians; and for the salvation of those who are not yet saved and part of God's Kingdom.

**Pray** for our **government**. Pray for righteousness to prevail – the 'righteousness which exalts a nation'; and for the best possible decisions to be made on behalf of our people.

**Pray** for **Godly and wise leadership** in the Church, government and throughout our land.